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JAMES FRANCO'S UNUSUAL DIET PLAN AND MORE, IN METRO'S MOVIE GUIDE {pages 25-28}



OUT OF SYNC? RELATIONSHIP COULD BE ON THE ROCKS {page 31}



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DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ Steven Elliot Laffin is escorted by sheriffs from Dartmouth provincial court on Thursday.

Accused a 'monster,' say friends of Taylor

Emotions high as Steven Elliot Laffin appears in court ◐ Dartmouth man already in custody on charge of abducting sex worker ◐ Laffin back in court Jan. 18

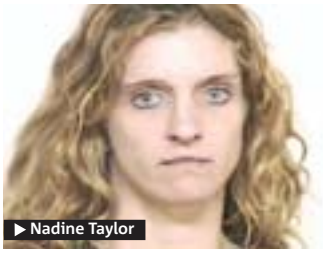
Friends and family of Nadine Taylor gasped and sobbed as the man accused of murdering the Halifax woman entered a Dartmouth court Thursday morning.

Steven Elliot Laffin walked into the courtroom quietly, sitting down before looking up blankly at Taylor's friends and family. Laffin looked back down at his laceless black shoes as Taylor's friends muttered "monster" and "he's nothing." One made a throat-cutting gesture.

Sheriffs surrounded Laffin, 36, throughout his brief appearance and warned Taylor's friends to be quiet. Laffin spoke only once, saying "Yes, sir," to the judge when asked about a procedural matter.

Laffin is charged with the second-degree murder of Taylor. The 29-year-old sex worker was reported missing July 31 and police have said they believe she is dead, though her body has not been found.

"He was arraigned on the charges and a date was set for him to return in January," said lawyer Peter Planetta, who represented Laffin.



▶ Nadine Taylor

Laffin has applied for legal aid and Planetta said that lawyer will then help Laffin prepare for his trial. "They'll need a significant amount of time to get that full disclosure and review it with him," he said.

Crown attorney Susan MacKay said prosecuting a murder case without a body was unusual, but not unheard of. "As with any murder case, we'll have to prove there was a death," she said. ● JON TATTRIE

'Two-tiered' system

Nadine Taylor's father said Thursday the justice system was "two-tiered" and fails to protect sex workers.

- Cecil Taylor noted Steven Laffin was accused of assaulting a sex worker in 2009, but the Crown dropped the case last June after the woman was late for trial.
- The Crown said there wasn't a reasonable prospect of conviction.
- "He came into court and was thrown back on the street again. Do you know why he was put back on the street? Because the girl he was in court for was considered no good," Cecil Taylor alleged.
- "She was late – 'Let's not hold it over, let's put him back on the street because we don't need to look after this case, it's holding up too much time in court.' Now look what happened."

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- Second sitting resumes, backlog of angst vented
- Legislature welcomes two new members, awaits swearing-in of one more
- Fall narratives emerge, focusing on economy, health and new prison

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ The Nova Scotia legislature was back open for business on Thursday.

Setting the tone for the session ahead



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The fall sitting of the Nova Scotia legislature began not with a bang, but a whimper.

Or, perhaps more accurately, with much shouting and finger pointing.

There was nothing new introduced in Thursday's session, with the exception of proposed changes to the Police Act first announced by Justice Minister Ross Landry last November.

We did, however, see some of this fall's likely narratives emerge. The Liberals, numbers bolstered by the swearing in of members Geoff MacLellan and Zach Churchill, continued to hammer away at the government on the Ross Report.

The report recommends closing some rural ERs at night — when those ERs see one or two patients over the course of a shift.

It also suggests this would save money and free up doctors, actually improving the quality of service in rural areas.

But Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil focused more on the NDP's 2009 campaign pledge to keep 24-7 emergency service — a pledge that would be broken if the government implements Ross's recommendations.

The Progressive Conservatives focused their attacks on the economy, asking Premier Darrell Dexter if he plans to meet with New Brunswick Premier David Alward about trade.

Alward will be in Halifax on Saturday for the Progressive Conservative's leadership convention.

The opposition also criticized the NDP for not having made a decision on where to put the new, 100-cell dual capacity jail.

NDP's agenda



Premier Darrell Dexter reaffirmed the NDP government's "aggressive agenda" for the fall sitting.

▶ "We are going to start to lay out our plans with respect to emergency rooms and how we're going to keep those open, we're going to set out our agricultural policy ... for the next couple of years, we have our five-year road paving strategy (that) will come out this session ... And a number of other pieces of legislation."

For more on the legislature, be sure to follow Alex Boutilier's blog at metronews.ca/politicsasusual

Minister touts new unit to police the police

Nova Scotia's justice minister is proposing legislation to create an independent unit to investigate alleged wrongdoing involving police.

Ross Landry says the Serious Incident Response Team would investigate incidents involving death, sexual assault or other public concerns that may arise as a result of alleged incidents involving police officers.

Landry says the unit would be made up of a civilian director and two civilian investigators in addition to support staff.

Seconded police officers would also be utilized as needed.

Landry — who first announced the unit last fall — says it would have an annual budget of $800,000.

He adds it is expected to become operational by the end of 2011.

Similar units are already in place in a number of jurisdictions, including Alberta and Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

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Vancouver Southsiders president joins It's Called Football to discuss the importance of away support in Major League Soccer. More at metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

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Lawmakers look at ways to cut catcalls, whistles and other street harassment of NYC women. Scan code for story.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Jamie Baillie will become the official leader of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservatives this weekend at a party convention in Halifax.

Baillie to be officially crowned at convention

Baillie will be sworn in as Cumberland-South MLA mid-November



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Albeit only a formality at this point, Jamie Baillie will officially be made leader of Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservative party this weekend.

The party will host its leadership convention at the Cunard Centre. Speakers include Defence Minister Peter MacKay, Prince Edward Island Progressive Conservative Leader Olive Crane and newly elected New Brunswick Premier David Alward.

MacKay, Crane and Alward will address the crowd on Friday night, in what is being billed as "a celebration of leadership."

While Baillie is the only candidate for leadership, he defended the necessity for the convention last month, saying it will be as much about policy as it is about voting in a new leader.

Fresh off a byelection victory in Cumberland-South, Baillie will be voted in on Saturday morning following a panel discussion on the economy featuring businessman Bill Black, Atlantic Institute of Market Studies VP Dianne Kelderman, Odgers-Berndston consultant Maureen Miller, and author Peter Moreira.

More coverage

- Alex Boutilier will be covering this weekend's Tory convention live on his blog at Politics as Usual at metronews.ca/halifax/politicsasusual

Reports of violence at group homes spur probe

Reports that residents at a group of homes for the developmentally disabled in Nova Scotia have violently attacked other residents and staff have prompted the Department of Community Services to launch an investigation of the agency that operates the facilities.

Community Services Minister Denise Peterson-Rafuse said Thursday she has ordered the audit after hearing from a union about injuries and several incidents of residents physically harming other residents at homes in Truro operated by the Colchester Residential Services Society, a private organization.

Peterson-Rafuse said in an interview she was informed of injuries and abuse earlier this week after her assistants met with representatives of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

"Upon completion of that meeting I was informed of what was going on and requested a full investigation be put in place by the department," she said.

Union president Joan Jessome said she asked the minister to audit the agency after she met Monday night with 30 unionized employees who work at the residences. It was the fourth meeting to examine concerns raised by workers.

"I would say in Colchester, in my personal opinion, I don't think they (the agencies managers) have acted and when they have it certainly hasn't been fast enough," said Jessome.

Shannon McLellan, director of the society, declined an interview but in an email she said the society is "prepared to co-operate fully with all audits and investigations."

"We consider these to be useful processes. We look forward to any recommendations that will help us do our job better."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

- According to statistics compiled by the Workers Compensation Board, there have been 38 injuries in the past five years caused by violent incidents at the society's residences, which include five adult group homes, a centre for respite care and a seniors' home.
- There have also been two allegations through the province's Protection of Person in Care Act of residents physically attacking other residents in the past two years.

Pot, cash seized from home

A 31-year-old man is facing charges after a large amount of drugs and cash was seized after a search of a home in Eastern Passage.

Halifax RCMP say officers conducted the search on Kilgar Court Wednesday and seized eight-and-a-half pounds of marijuana and about $10,000 in cash.

Police say the Eastern Passage man, whose name hasn't been released, is being charged under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. He will be appearing in court at a later date. METRO HALIFAX

Child porn charges for 17-year-old

A 17-year-old male is charged with possession of child pornography after police searched a home in Cole Harbour on Thursday.

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said the search took place at the teen's family residence with pornographic images of children allegedly found on a computer in the home.

MacRae didn't have an age range for the images of the children.

The suspect will appear at Dartmouth provincial court in December to face the charge. METRO HALIFAX

Province extends rail subsidy

The Nova Scotia government has agreed to continue with a subsidy to help ensure the operation of a rail freight service in the province's northeast and in Cape Breton.

Economic Development Minister Percy Paris announced Thursday that the agreement with the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway has been extended for 18 months at a cost of $3.5 million.

He said it would allow the railway to continue to operate until at least Sept. 20, 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS





*Regular priced items. Excluding robes and sleepsets. Selection may vary by store. While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.

Accused in man's slaying appears in court

Teen's lawyer to review evidence Amanda Greene returned to jail after brief appearance before judge

JON TATTRIE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

An Eastern Passage woman accused of the first-degree murder of her former boyfriend briefly appeared in a provincial courtroom Thursday.

Amanda Greene, 18, was in the Shubenacadie provincial court for just a few minutes.

She is scheduled to re-appear in court on Nov. 25 for election and/or plea over the death of Dillon Jewett.

Jewett, a Dartmouth man who worked as a furniture mover, was found dead near the East Uniacke Quarry on Oct. 3. He had been shot to death.

Greene, who graduated from Cole Harbour High School, is a first-year Dalhousie University student.

Greene was charged with Jewett's murder over the weekend after police arrested her at a service station in Eastern Passage.

RCMP have said a firearm was used to kill Jewett, but wouldn't say how many times he was shot.

Greene's Facebook page lists Jewett as a friend and Greene's most recent status update was a tribute to the Dartmouth man.

"I can't believe you're really gone, but I now know I have an angel in heaven watching down below. I love you and always will R.I.P. Dillon," read the Oct. 7 post.

'First loves'?

- RCMP haven't said anything about the relationship between the two.
- However, a friend on Amanda Greene's Facebook page described them as "first loves" on Greene's tribute to Jewett.
- Police have said the investigation is ongoing, but wouldn't say if they expect to make further arrests.

Scotia Square. Carvin'



▶ Mike Vavra shows off his pumpkin carving skills at Scotia Square on Thursday.

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO HALIFAX

Pumpkins for Smart Pumps

Vavra was participating in a pumpkin carving contest to raise money for the purchase of a Smart Pump for the IWK Health Centre. The Smart Pump is used to monitor daily injections to children being treated at the IWK.

Fate of Sydney girls' school in doubt

The future of the only all-girls school east of Montreal has been put in serious doubt after a special meeting of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board on Thursday. The board announced that the Department of Education would not fund the purchase of Holy Angels High School. CAPE BRETON POST



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New York Air + 3 Nights from $749 + taxes & fees $97

INCLUDES accom close to Central Park. ADD all loops 48-hour double decker pass from $59.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from $989 + taxes & fees $124

INCLUDES accom on Waikiki beach.

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The science, the fiction and the fantasy

- Festival features live-action role-playing games
- Fantasy model Drakaina Muse to launch new book

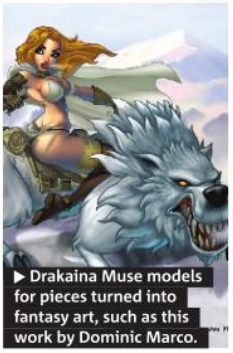
JON TATTRIE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Thousands of comic book, science-fiction and fantasy fans are descending on Halifax this weekend for Hal-Con 2010.

The Friday-to-Sunday convention at the Lord Nelson Hotel will feature actor Walter Koenig from the original Star Trek, Denise Crosby from Star Trek: The Next Generation and the world's "No. 1 fantasy model," Drakaina Muse.

The event will also feature movies, art shows, a masquerade ball, workshops, gaming and a charity auction.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Drakaina Muse models for pieces turned into fantasy art, such as this work by Dominic Marco.

Muse, who is from France but now lives in Halifax, said she loves North American sci-fi conferences because fans here don't mind showing their enthusiasm.

"In France, there are geeks for sure, but they don't act on it," she said.

"I love meeting them in person. A lot of them, rather than talking about obvious, you know, features of Drakaina, will talk about how I inspired them and the strength of the characters."

Festival website

- To learn more about Hal-Con 2010 and for ticket information, go to www.hal-con.com.

Mi'kmaq. Bust



▶ Crystal Nimchuk holds her half-brother, Donald Jr., during the unveiling of a statue that pays tribute to their father, Donald Marshall Jr.

ERIN POTTIE/CAPE BRETON POST

Sculpting a community's history

Crystal Nimchuk and her son, along with Donald Marshall Jr.'s son Randy Sack, revealed on Thursday the third and final statue commissioned by the Membertou band to pay tribute to leaders who made an impact on the Mi'kmaq community.

Lighten up

- Police are advising parents to monitor their children, and to use flashlights to improve visibility.

Halloween traffic

Halifax police are reminding motorists to drive with extra caution Sunday, with thousands of kids out trick-or-treating for Halloween. Police say there will be extra pedestrian and vehicular traffic on roads. METRO

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Firing squad executes 'spies' aged 15 and 18

- Onlooker faints as young Somali girls are shot
- 'Those who watched could not bear the pain'

Two accused spies died amid a fusillade of bullets from a firing squad organized by a hardline Islamist militia.

The condemned pair were girls — aged only 15 and 18.

Their grieving relatives say they were uneducated, usually stayed at home and could not have spied for anyone.

Horrified residents of Belet Weyne, in western Somalia, were forced to watch the execution by al-Shabab on Wednesday.

One woman fainted as the girls were gunned down by 10 masked executioners.

"Those who watched the event could not bear the painful experience. Two very young girls were shot as they watched and no one could help," said Dahir Casowe, a local elder.

Al-Shabab is linked to Al Qaida and has carried out whippings, amputations and executions to enforce its own strict interpretation of Islam.

Shortly before the executions, Sheik Mohamed Ibrahim sentenced the girls to death for spying for government soldiers fighting al-Shabab.

The only qualifications Ibrahim needed to be appointed a judge by al-Shabab were that he be male and know the Qur'an.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Innocent?

- Sheik Yusuf Ali Ugas, the governor of the Hiran region, told the crowd over a loudspeaker that the girls were captured during fighting and they admitted spying.
- But Sadia Osman, who witnessed the execution, said one of the girls proclaimed her innocence.
- Ugas warned residents against using their mobile phones or cameras to photograph the execution.

Rome. They're not acting



▶ Well, that's showbiz: Workers disrupt a film festival Thursday.

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lights, action ... protest

Hundreds of protesting actors and actresses, directors, screenwriters and other workers in the movie industry occupied the red carpet of the International Rome Film Festival on Thursday. The high-profile stunt was part of an ongoing dispute over government funding cuts to culture. The sign held by the protesters reads "There are working people in the end credits."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Danny Williams

Ill-fated power deal squeezes N.B. Tories

It has been one year since the premiers of New Brunswick and Quebec announced the now ill-fated, $4.8-billion plan to sell New Brunswick's power utility to Hydro-Quebec.

But New Brunswick's energy woes remain.

The deal proposed by Quebec's Jean Charest and then-premier Shawn Graham of New Brunswick would have eliminated NB Power's debt, and frozen power rates for residential customers for five years.

However, the announcement drew an immediate backlash from New Brunswickers — concerned they were losing control of the Crown-owned utility to another province — and from Premier Danny Williams of Newfoundland and Labrador, who warned about signing any deals with Quebec.

The deal was eventually watered down to a $3.2-billion package in which New Brunswick retained control over transmission and distribution.

That deal fell apart and the public outcry over Graham's plan is seen as a major reason for the defeat of his Liberal government last month.

Now the new Conservative government of Premier David Alward is faced with a debt-laden utility and struggling industries who crave a break on power rates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Quebec City. Farewell



JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ready to march off to Afghanistan

Canadian Forces Lt. Col. Michel Henri St.-Louis of the Royal 22nd Regiment leads his troops in a farewell parade Thursday at the Citadelle in Quebec City. St.-Louis leaves next week with 1,400 soldiers for a final stint in Afghanistan.

Health care spending going up – and down

Belt-tightening by provinces behind shrinking rate, expert says Lowest growth rate 'in last 13 years'

Total health-care spending in Canada this year is predicted to reach almost $192 billion, up almost five per cent over 2009, says a report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The 155-page report, released Thursday, says that figure translates into about $5,600 for each man, woman and child in the country.

"Over the last 10 years, we've seen the growth in health-care spending over and above population growth and inflation," said Chris Kuchciak, manager of health expenditures for CIHI.

"There were significant investments in health care. But now fiscal positions have changed."
CHRIS KUCHCIAK

"However, what's different this year is that the growth rate in 2009 and 2010 seems to be decelerating."

Actual per capita health-care spending is expected to rise by just 1.4 per cent this year, Kuchciak said.

"The growth rate of 1.4 per cent is actually the lowest growth rate in the last 13 years."

Kuchciak said a number of factors are likely behind the shrinking rate in health spending, including belt tightening by provinces.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. sparks row over kid soldiers

In a move criticized by human rights organizations, the U.S. has decided to exempt Yemen and three African countries that use child soldiers from U.S. penalties.

President Barack Obama says, "it is in the national interest of the United States."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-gay case goes to top court

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an appeal against a man who distributed anti-gay pamphlets in Saskatoon and Regina.

The flyers referred to homosexual men as sodomites and pedophiles, called same-sex relationships "filthy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facts uncovered

- The question of secrecy has dominated world news in the last week, after the whistleblowing group WikiLeaks published nearly 400,000 U.S. intelligence logs detailing daily carnage in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.
- In July, the same group published 77,000 secret U.S. documents covering the war in Afghanistan.

Secrecy vital to us: Spy chief

Britain's spy agency chief stepped out of the shadows with an unprecedented public address, defending the need for secrecy to counter growing terror threats such as Iran's nuclear proliferation.

MI6 chief John Sawers said Thursday even though Cold War-era secrecy has been lifted and intelligence agencies were working to become more accessible, keeping intelligence material secret was vital to protect people against terror attacks.

"Secrecy is not a dirty word. Secrecy is not there as a coverup," Sawers told a select group of journalists in London.

"Without secrecy there would be no intelligence services, or indeed other national assets like our special forces. Our nation would be more exposed as a result."

Sawers — also known by the codename "C" as all MI6 directors have been known since the first chief Mansfield Cumming — said progress had been made in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But new terror threats are growing in Yemen, Somalia and North Africa, he said.

The new threats also come amid severe budget cuts ahead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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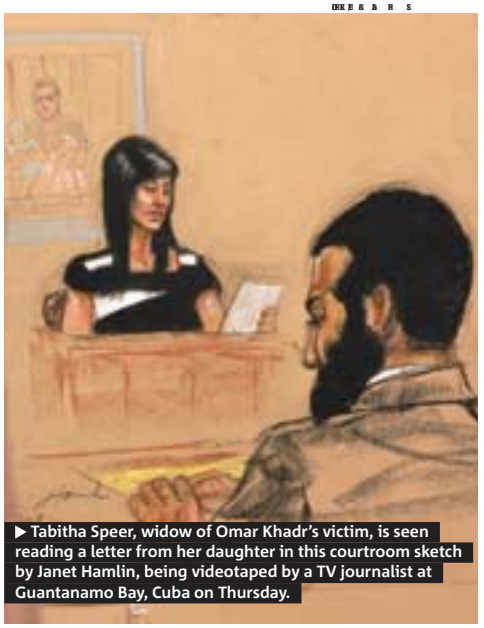
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Khadr apologizes for U.S. soldier's killing



▶ Tabitha Speer, widow of Omar Khadr's victim, is seen reading a letter from her daughter in this courtroom sketch by Janet Hamlin, being videotaped by a TV journalist at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Thursday.

Notes on the proposed transfer to Canadian custody are to be released

Convicted Canadian war criminal Omar Khadr stood in a Guantanamo Bay courtroom Thursday and apologized directly to the widow of the American soldier he killed eight years ago.

Taking the stand to deliver an unsworn statement, Khadr also said his greatest wish was to get of prison and one day become a doctor.

"I'm really, really sorry for the pain I caused you and your family," Khadr told Tabitha Speer, who hours earlier branded him a murderer.

"I wish I could do something that would take this pain away from you."

Speer initially shook her head as he spoke, and then wept.

Khadr told his Pentagon-appointed lawyer, Col. Jon Jackson, that he had decided to plead guilty to war crimes "to take responsibility for the acts I've done."

Khadr's lawyers have said a deal was struck this week that would see him return to Canada after serving up to another year in U.S. custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Statement

Citing South African President Nelson Mandela, Khadr said he had learned that in prison he had much time to think about things. As a result, he said, he had concluded there was no point carrying anger or hate in his heart.

VOLCANOES

Russia hit with eruptions

Two volcanoes erupted Thursday on Russia's far-eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, tossing massive ash clouds kilometres into the air, forcing flights to divert and blanketing one town with thick, heavy ash.

The Klyuchevskaya Sopka, Eurasia's highest active volcano, exploded along with the Shiveluch volcano, 70 kilometres to the northeast, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's branch in Kamchatka said, adding that flights in the area had to change course.

Ash clouds from the remote volcanoes billowed up to 10 kilometres and were spreading east across the Pacific Ocean, vulcanologist Sergei Senyukov told Rossiya 24 television.

Streams of lava flowed down the slopes of Shiveluch.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday issued a notice to pilots that they should remain alert for possible ash clouds, saying emissions have "intermittently complicated air travel" in the area of the Kamchatkan Peninsula.

"Any air carriers, including foreign air carriers, that observe or experience any difficulties resulting from an encounter with volcanic ash, please notify air traffic control immediately," the notice said.

Several pilots have reported seeing ash clouds in the Alaskan region, FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said.

However, the ash has been below 25,000 feet, while planes are assigned altitudes above that level so there was no difficulty, she said.

Thus far, the FAA hasn't issued any flight restrictions due to ash, she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama lauds U.S. efforts in Chile miner rescue

U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday congratulated officials from NASA and several U.S. companies for their role in this month's rescue of 33 miners trapped underground in Chile.

The miners were rescued on Oct. 14, more than two months after they were marooned by a mine collapse.

Obama had planned to deliver a statement to the media in the Rose Garden after meeting with the group in the Oval Office.

But shortly before the event, the White House cited a schedule change in announcing that Obama's statement had been cancelled.

In public comments earlier this month, Obama said the rescue had captivated the world. He also commended everyone involved, including a NASA team that helped design the capsule that was used to bring the miners above ground one at a time.

Jim Stefanic, operations manager for Geotec Boyles Bros., S.A., a drilling company, said they had a "very good chat" with the president.

"He congratulated everybody on this great rescue mission down there," Stefanic told reporters outside the White House after the meeting.

Stefanic said Obama also told them he was "very proud that we were down there doing this job and rescued all 33 miners alive."

Other drilling companies represented at the meeting were Schramm Inc., Center Rock Inc. and Layne Christensen Co.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Company

Geotec Boyles Bros., S.A., is a U.S.-Chilean company based in Santiago, Chile.

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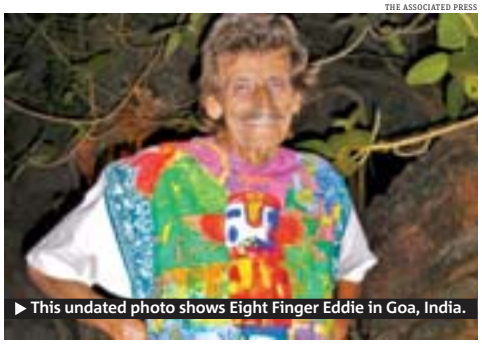
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▶ This undated photo shows Eight Finger Eddie in Goa, India.

Goa's great evolution

- 'Eight Finger Eddie' helped put Indian hotspot of Goa on the map
- Counterculture paradise soon became top-dollar tourist destination

Eight Finger Eddie's time had come and gone.

When the 85-year-old, touted as the godfather of Goa's hippie scene, died last week in a beachside village in Goa, the Indian state he had helped put on the travel map for global backpackers and stoners had long since turned its back on him and his kind.

Goa is now a top vacation and party destination, thronged by tourists hungry for its high-end hotels and chilled-out beaches.

It was a different scene at Anjuna beach, now the epicenter of tourism in Goa, when Eddie arrived with his half-naked buddies, Junky Robert, Hollywood Peter and Trumpet Steve in 1965.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Future of 41 seized snakes uncertain

The U.S. federal government doesn't want 41 venomous snakes taken from a man prosecutors say had coerced a young girl to pose with the reptiles.

John Joseph Maillet pleaded guilty Sept. 8 to production of child pornography and possession of a firearm by a felon in federal court. He agreed to give up the snakes, guns and computer equipment.

A judge on Wednesday approved a request by prosecutor Scott Gilbert to remove the snakes from a list of forfeited property.

Court records described the snakes as venomous but didn't identify them further nor say what will happen to them. Gilbert says the government rarely wants live animals, in part due to the cost of keeping and feeding them.

Maillet faces up to 30 years' imprisonment at sentencing scheduled Dec. 8. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Find could be key to dinosaur's lineage

Scientists say they've found the first complete skeleton of a dinosaur that is an ancestor to the sauropod, the largest creature ever to walk the planet.

The 30-foot-long skeleton, complete with skull, may help reveal the story of how the 120-foot-long, giant-necked sauropods evolved and became solely plant eaters.

The bones were found in southern China, Texas Tech paleontologist Sankar Chatterjee said Thursday. He planned to present preliminary findings of the discovery Sunday at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver.

"It's like a manuscript. Many pages are missing. We are still trying to piece it together," Chatterjee said. "This is one of those missing links. Now we'll know better how these dinosaurs evolved."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

200M

The skeleton is estimated to be more than 200 million years old.

Pumpkin. Wall



▶ Wired for light and sound.

MARK WEBB/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An October feast for the eyes and ears

Rick Griffith puts the finishing touches on a pumpkin display in which the lights are synchronized to music at the Pumpkin House in Kenova, W. Va.

Charity. Dropping pumpkins



▶ Lauren Hockin, president of the University of Western Ontario's chapter of Engineers Without Borders, poses next to a 1,000-pound pumpkin about to be dropped from a 120-foot crane in London, Ont., on Thursday.

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The great half-ton pumpkin toss

The anti-poverty event supports improving rural farmers' livelihoods in Ghana.

More students paying more

Rise in enrolment ranged from 0.7% in N.L. to 4.5% in B.C. Grads more likely to land knowledge-based jobs

Rising enrolment rates at Canadian universities were hailed Thursday as a future boon to the Canadian economy, but student advocates warned skyrocketing tuition is putting post-secondary education out of reach for many students.

Overall university enrolment increased 3.7 per cent over last year and 57 per cent from 1995, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada reported. There were 898,000 full-time university students registered this fall.

Petition

- More than 39,000 people have signed the federation's petition calling on the federal government to create a national post-secondary education act and restore funding for post-secondary education to 1992 levels.
- The petition is online at www.educationisaright.ca.

That's good news for the economy, because university graduates represent about a quarter of the working population but are about 40 per cent of the tax base, said association president Paul Davidson.

"To be able to afford the quality of life, the standard of living, the quality of public services that we have in Canada, requires these kind of high-quality jobs that university graduates are getting," Davidson said.

University graduates increase Canada's productivity and innovation, said Davidson. They also make more money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Ont. city official blunders

The mayor of Elliot Lake says he'll investigate an apparent social media blunder by the northern Ontario city's chief administrative officer.

Dan Gagnon is accused of making inappropriate remarks about mayoral challenger Bob Whitehead on his personal Facebook page.

The offending message has been taken off Facebook, but it went viral after it was copied into an email sent to many Elliot Lake residents.

The Facebook comment attributed to Gagnon expresses relief that incumbent Mayor Rick Hamilton won Monday's election.

It says challenger Whitehead had "zero municipal experience" and was on record as saying the city doesn't need a CAO.

Gagnon says he is unable to comment at this time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pentagon condemns private spying

A high-level Pentagon inquiry has accused defence contractor and retired U.S. Army officer Michael Furlong of running what amounted to an illegal spying ring of military contractors in gathering intelligence in Afghanistan and Pakistan that ended up being used to kill or capture suspected militants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PROTESTS WEAKEN

French strikes fail to draw large numbers of people as they did previously ◗ Demonstrations by train and oil workers tapering off

Strikes caused hassles for air travellers in France on Thursday, but nationwide street protests over a plan to raise the retirement age to 62 failed to draw the massive crowds of weeks' past — a sign of slackening resolve among the bill's opponents.

Parliament has already approved raising the retirement age from 60 to 62, but union leaders insist they will not give up their fight until conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy actually signs the bill. Still, fewer protesters followed them into the streets this time, and strikes by train and oil workers have been tapering off in recent days.

In Paris, demonstrators waved union flags and set off flares, while in southern Marseille, they beat drums and blew whistles. Past demonstrations have drawn more than a million protesters into the streets; this time, the Interior Ministry put the figure at 560,000 nationwide. The hard-line CGT union contested that number, putting turnout at 2 million.

"We will fight until the end."
SOCIALIST LEADER MARTINE AUBRY

"It's true you could say the anti-reform movement is slowing down, but you need to ask why," Serba Germain, a 67-year-old retired police officer marching in Marseille, told Associated Press Television News.

"People are disappointed, they are frustrated" because the government hasn't listened.

Unions and opposition parties urged Sarkozy not to sign the law, which polls show is unpopular. He is expected to do so by mid-November, after it is cleared by France's constitutional watchdog.

But Sarkozy has refused to back down, even amid two weeks of strikes that cancelled trains, shut down oil refineries and left drivers struggling to find gasoline.

A small number of trains were cancelled Thursday, but the problem was bigger for airlines. A third of flights at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport and half of those at the city's smaller Orly were cancelled. Flights were expected to run as normal Friday.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A demonstrator holds a French President Nicolas Sarkozy mask during a protest in Paris, Thursday, as part of the seventh day of action against the pensions reform law.

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Bin Laden recording authentic: Ministry

A newly released audio tape of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden threatening France appears to be authentic, the French Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The voice on the audio tape threatens to kill French citizens to avenge their country's support for the war in Afghanistan and in revenge for a new French law that will ban burqa-like Muslim veils. The audiotape was obtained by the Al-Jazeera television station.

The Foreign Ministry says the tape's "authenticity can be considered established based on initial verifications."

The message "only confirms that reality of the terror threat," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said.

A series of terror warnings has put France and other European countries on high alert in recent weeks, prompting the U.S. State Department to advise American citizens living or travelling in Europe to take more precautions.

Speculation on the source of a potential terror threat in France has focused on a group called al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb.

That group, an offshoot of bin Laden's network, has claimed responsibility for the abductions of five French citizens in Niger and is believed to have taken them to neighbouring Mali.

The French hostages, as well as a Togolese and a Madagascar national, were kidnapped on Sept. 16 while they slept in their villas in the uranium mining town of Arlit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ A screen grab taken from an AFP video shows a photo of Osama bin Laden and a blurred picture of what appears to be policemen pulling off a woman's veil.

France feels fuel crunch

Though the strikes in France are tapering off, the fuel shortages they caused are still a problem. One in five gas stations remain empty or short of gas because of the refinery strike, said the national petroleum industry body.

Striking dock workers have exacerbated the shortages. Oil tankers are lined up by the dozens in the Mediterranean off the port of Marseille, waiting to unload. The Normandy port of Le Havre faces a similar situation. Dock workers have been protesting for a month, partly over the pension plan, though their central concern is port reform.

Unions see retirement at 60 as a cornerstone of France's generous social benefit system, but the government says the entire pension system is in jeopardy without the reform because French people are living longer — an average of nearly 85 years for women and 78 for men. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO



▶ Former Parti Québécois leader Jacques Parizeau in 2006.

Separatists try to curtail infighting

Parizeau's big TV interview leaves Marois out in the cold But Bloc Québécois leader gets a thumbs-up

Quebec's sovereignty movement worked to avoid a family feud Thursday, one involving powerful personalities and clashing visions about how to work toward independence.

Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois — who is ostensibly the leading figure in the movement — found herself defending her performance and strategic approach.

She was reacting to eyebrow-raising remarks from a perhaps even more powerful figure within her party.

In a lengthy television interview this week (this 15th anniversary of the last Quebec referendum), ex-premier Jacques Parizeau didn't once mention the current PQ leader.

But he did applaud Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe as the sovereignty movement's best spokesperson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spy chief: Secrecy vital to us

Britain's spy agency chief has defended the need for secrecy to counter growing terror threats.

MI6 chief John Sawers said Thursday even though Cold War-era secrecy has been lifted and intelligence agencies were working to become more accessible, keeping intelligence material secret is vital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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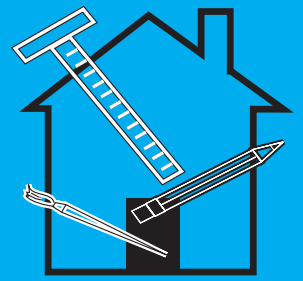
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CANADIAN HIGHLANDER

A pathway to peace

PHOTO CHALLENGE

Today's photo of the day is by Canadian Highlander and was submitted in the Emotions category. The photo is titled Mcdougall Church Near Ghost Lake. Enter your photos today and view more pictures at metrophotochallenge.ca.

"It wasn't my intention to disparage anyone suffering with a mental health issue."
CRAIG WESTCOTT

Spin doc says sorry

Craig Westcott, the new spin doctor for the Liberals in Newfoundland and Labrador, has apologized for an e-mail that raised the prospect that Premier Danny Williams is mentally ill or in the last stages of a venereal disease.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE DON'T VOTE

Other people's money



DAVID DESCÔTEAUX

Crucial mid-term elections will take place next Tuesday in the United States. The Republicans could regain political control in Washington and block Obama's projects.

Bryan Caplan, economics professor at George Mason University, has some advice for the millions of voters who plan to cast ballots on election day: If you don't understand basic economics, why not just stay home?

In his book, The Myth Of The Rational Voter, Caplan says it's wrong to think that politicians don't listen to the people. On the contrary, politicians do listen ... and that's the problem! Voters are riddled with biases, according to Caplan. Especially when it comes to the economy.

Several polls carried out in the U.S. have revealed that half of voters don't know the name of their senator or representative. A good portion of the population thinks that foreign aid represents 24 per cent of the federal budget. (The correct answer: One per cent.)

"Many people have backward ideas about economics, having never studied the subject. And their opinions are generally the opposite of what an economics course would teach," Caplan once told me when I interviewed him for a business magazine. For example, people who have not studied economics usually think protectionism is a good thing. "Instead of saying, 'I don't know, I never studied that,' they state with conviction: 'Foreigners are stealing our jobs! We have to do something, regardless of what economists say!'"

The average voter exhibits numerous biases in economic matters, according to Caplan's research. Among other things, people tend to underestimate the advantages of market mechanisms, or the benefits of immigration and free trade. They also like to blame scapegoats for economic problems — speculators, oil companies, Wal-Mart, the Chinese ...

The end result: In order to cater to voters, politicians enact laws that persecute those scapegoats, or erect protectionist barriers (taxes and tariffs) to limit free trade. Policies that, according to Caplan, impoverish the economy as a whole. The professor, who does not shy away from controversy, is consistent with his recommendations: Encouraging people to vote is a bad idea, he says. "Those who abstain from voting are, on average, less educated and less informed. If all of those people voted, the average voter would be even more ignorant of economic matters." Politicians would adjust their electoral platforms to cater to those voters, proposing even worse policies. "If you think politicians currently aim for the lowest common denominator among voters, you ain't seen nothing yet. That denominator can get even lower!"

Voting is a civic duty, they say. But for some, could the opposite be true?

"Among other things, people tend to underestimate the advantages of market mechanisms, or the benefits of immigration and free trade."

David Descôteaux is a freelance economic journalist and an associate researcher at the Montreal Economic Institute.

Market moment

TSX	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Dollar	Oil
– 3.16 (12,564.09)	$3.781 (– 1.8¢) Gold contracts $1,342.50 (+ $19.90)	+ 0.69¢ (97.90¢ US)	+ 24¢ US ($82.18 US)

Chocolate. Art



▶ Luc Dorin, a chocolate maker from Bordeaux, France, poses with his chocolate sculpture at the Chocolate Fairin Paris, Thursday.

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making an edible masterpiece

It took Luc Dorin three months and 31 kilograms of chocolate to make his sculpture. Dorin is taking part in the World Chocolate Masters series in Paris.

Wireless industry complaints on rise

- **Billing errors, contract disputes among gripes**
- **Bell, Telus and Rogers got most of the complaints**

The fast-growing and competitive wireless industry is getting a lot of heat from consumers, who have increasingly turned to a government watchdog about problems with their service providers.

Although there has been a big increase in the number of wireless carriers in the market this year, the three established wireless carriers — Bell, Telus and Rogers — got almost all of the wireless complaints tallied in the 2009-10 report.

Canada's Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services reported Thursday that wireless carriers were the target of 52 per cent of the 3,700 complaints it received in the 2009-2010 monitoring period.

It was the first time that the wireless sector accounted for more than half of the complaints recorded by the agency, which also deals with complaints about local and long-distance phone services and Internet providers.

Most of the wireless complaints involved billing errors, contract disputes and what's known as "number portability," which means being able to keep your cellphone handset when switching the service to another wireless carrier.

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AltaGas reports Q3 earnings drop

- **Company reported a third-quarter net income of $6M**
- **Big drop from $34.7M reported in same 2009 quarter**

Energy infrastructure company AltaGas Ltd. says it plans to continue a "prudent" financing strategy to achieve its organic growth targets over the next five years.

"We have completed approximately $1 billion in finance initiatives this year, including our very successful preferred share issue in August," chairman and CEO David Cornhill said Thursday in a news release in which the company reported sharply lower third-quarter earnings.

"We will continue a prudent financing strategy as we pursue our goal of securing over $2 billion of organic growth in the next five years," Cornhill added.

As it is, the company remains "well positioned to fund our $1.2-billion current committed capital program in a cost effective manner," he said.

AltaGas reported third-quarter net income of $6 million, or seven cents a diluted share, in the three months ended Sept. 30, a big drop from the $34.7 million, or 43 cents per diluted share, it reported in the comparable 2009 quarter.

Revenue for the three months ended Sept. 30 was $297.4 million, up from $291.4 million.

"Our diversified business strategy continues to produce stable earnings and cash flow in the face of weak commodity prices in some parts of our business," Cornhill said.

"We continue to make progress optimizing our business and growing our company. We commenced construction on Forrest Kerr and completed a number of gas and power construction projects this quarter that will contribute to long-term growth and cash flow generation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The company

AltaGas is engaged in natural gas extraction and transmission, distribution and storage as well as other energy services, including power generation.

Trading Its stock was down 40 cents, or 1.87 cent, at $21.02 in afternoon trading Thursday on the Toronto Stock Exchange

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TSX investors timid

Questions about U.S. Fed's bond-buying plan create volatility

The Toronto stock market closed flat Thursday as commodity prices and stocks rose against a falling U.S. dollar.

But many sectors were held back amid uncertainty about the size of the U.S. Federal Reserve's plan to inject more stimulus into the U.S. economy.

The S&P/TSX composite index dipped 3.16 points to 12,564.09 as investors gave a mixed reception to a variety of earnings reports, while the TSX Venture Exchange gained 18.13 points to 1,926.16.

The Canadian dollar racked up a solid gain, rising 0.69 of a US cent to 97.9 cents US after a strengthening U.S. currency had pushed the loonie lower the previous two sessions.

Gold stocks led advancers on higher bullion prices and a well-received earnings report from Barrick Gold Corp. Barrick shares rose $1.13 to $48.07 as the company posted a record third-quarter profit of $837 million US or 84 cents per share, rising from a year-ago loss of $5.35 billion when it wound up its gold hedging program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colgate. Earnings



▶ Some Colgate-Palmolive products.

TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Income-decay averted

Consumer products maker Colgate-Palmolive posted a 4.9 per cent rise in net income in the third quarter Thursday, even as revenue fell slightly because of foreign currency exchange.

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Mary Callanan

5 MINUTES WITH: MARY CALLANAN

Her name might not stand out to us here but the musical she is performing in certainly does. Theatre veteran Mary Callanan is one of the stars of Mamma Mia!, the hit musical that is touring North America with five shows set for the Halifax Metro Centre Nov. 26-Nov. 28. Callanan, who lives in Boston, plays the character of Rosie and she spoke with Metro Halifax as Mamma Mia! performs this week in Saskatoon, Sask.

Have you ever been to the Maritimes before?
I have actually. My brother went to St. FX and my in-laws live in New Glasgow.

How is the tour going so far?
We're having so much fun because it's being taken to places that are relatively new for the Mamma Mia! tour schedule. People are so excited to see it. We just spent two weeks in Anchorage (Alaska) and it was almost sold out each night. Frankly, I didn't think there were that many people in Anchorage.

What do you think it is about Mamma Mia! that resonates with people?
First and foremost, it's a wave of music that has gotten under our collective skin for more than 40 years. For our parents, it would be like a (Frank) Sinatra show. But the part that keeps people so engaged during the show is the story of strong women — of mothers and daughters — and of making choices and sticking with them.

"But the part that keeps people so engaged during the show is the story of strong women ..."

Do you have any tips for men who might be forced into going?
Well, I think if they attempt to keep an open mind. You know, maybe you've never tried to take your wife to a hockey game, but she's trying to share something with you here.

What about singing all these ABBA songs?
It's a huge kick ... I've done theatre and concert work myself for a long time, but never to audiences this big that are so excited they are like reaching for the stage. It's very heavy. It's a heavy experience.

PHILIP CROUCHER

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Comments not funny

Letters & Tweets

Re: What do you do when joke's on you? (Oct 28)

TORONTO. The article by Mr. Mazerolle contains some significantly offensive remarks. In particular, he likens feelings, when he failed to succeed as a standup comic, to "something akin to a kid who drops his ice cream combined with those Palestinian women you see mourning on television."

This remark is offensive on many levels, but in particular it is demeaning and dismissive of women suffering the loss of loved ones during a war. The referral to the "Palestinian women" in this context implies that they, and their grief, are somehow lesser, and mocks their reactions to their losses. I doubt Mr. Mazerolle would have made a similar reference to mourning Canadian women. His use of the grief of these women in this context serves to dehumanize them and is certainly not funny.

The use of the reference to the Palestinian women in conjunction with a dropped ice cream cone is a further degradation to the plight of these women, which should be considered separately from their context in the political arena in the Middle East. **MALERIE ROSE**

Re: Clampdown useless: EU (Oct. 28)

TORONTO. Thank you for picking up this news item and reporting on the growing support for calling out the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on this theatre it calls airport security.

Those of us who travel frequently have been trying to educate the general public on the redundant and invasive measures that our governments are placing on us in the name of "anything for security." Should we have to be scanned naked to get on a plane when airports don't scan the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority/U.S. TSA workers, don't scan all checked baggage, don't scan all baggage handlers, don't scan all ground crew? **S. FLINT**

We asked: What's your favourite Halloween costume?

@ari_ospeedwagon Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) in No Country For Old Men and ShamWoW Guy (Vince Shlomi) after his arrest in Miami. I in fact borrowed an American quarter from a colleague. It's all in the details, friendo ...

@willsamuel when I was a kid, my dad and I made an Optimus Prime transformers uniform out of cardboard, foil and paint. It was totally cool
@allysandria0 Audrey Hepburn! for best costume. easy, simple, and not trashy!
@samogrady I was once a Christmas tree, layers of green tafida sewn to a bodysuit. I even had battery packs for my over 100 lights!
@jenochej giant Rubik's cube!

Whose shoes would you like to fill?

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Metro Minute with Zuppa Theatre Co.

A new play takes to the stage Friday as Zuppa Theatre Co. presents Five Easy Steps (to the end of the world).

The play tells the story of three friends who isolate themselves in the backroom of a pawnshop on what is the night of the end of the world. The evening includes a dance party and what is described as "a painful mediation on the past, future and the ever-elusive present."

An ensemble theatre company, Zuppa will present Five Easy Steps at the Farmer's Market at 1498 Lower Water St. through Nov. 13. Go online to zuppatheatre.com for complete details.

METRO

Three days to play

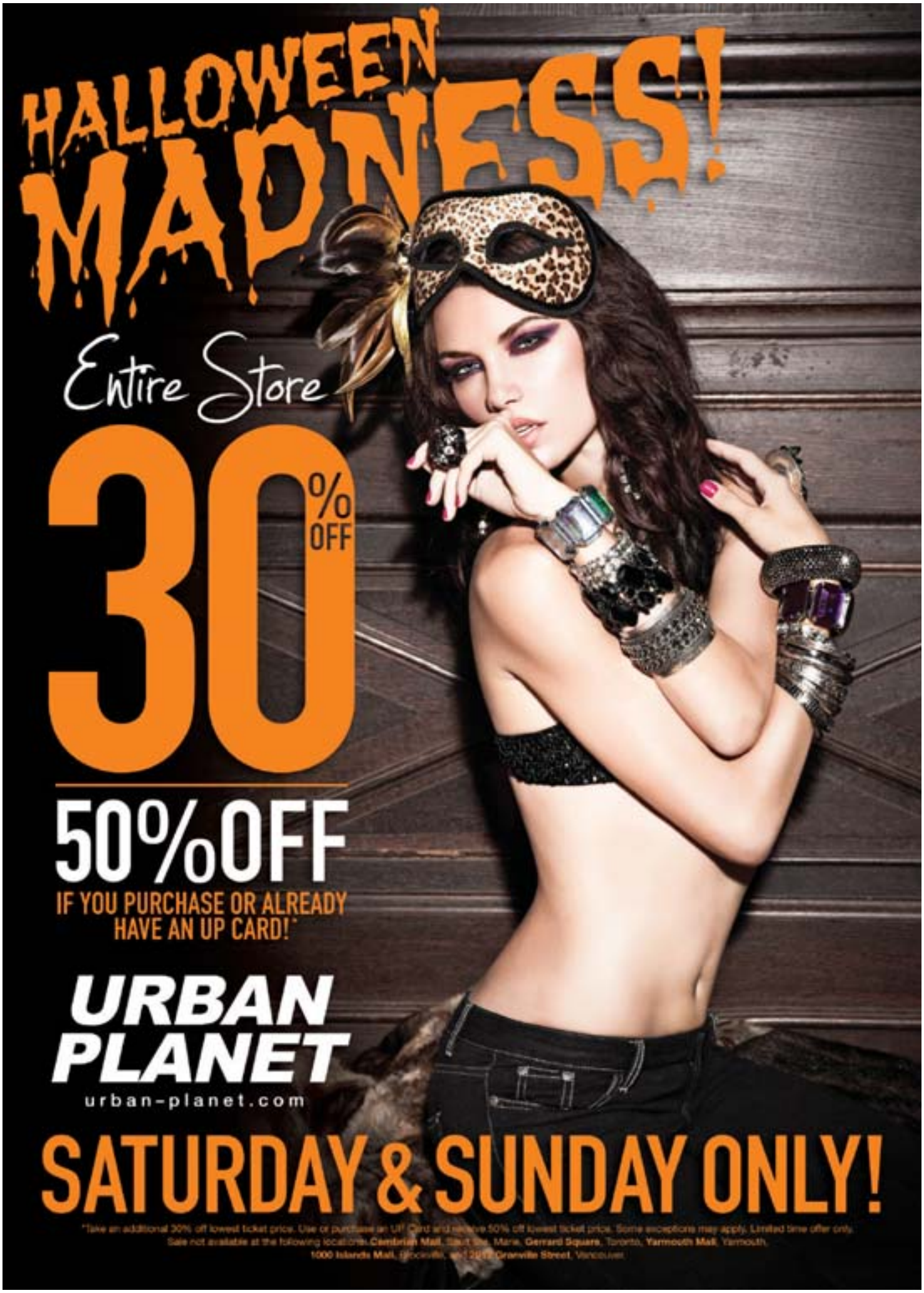
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN?



Victoria Banfield
TANTALLON
Little Red Riding Hood. I'm not sure why. It was my favourite costume I found.



Katie Spampinato
TANTALLON
I'm going to be a firefighter — a fire girl. I liked the costume and it was not as small as the other (costumes), I guess you could say.


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James Franco takes on the real-life survival story of Aron Ralston in 127 Hours
Actor underwent big weight loss to mimic what happened to Ralston during his five days of having his arm trapped under a boulder
Video diary helped Franco prepare for role

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ James Franco plays Aron Ralston in 127 Hours.

Learning how to survive



NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Playing a hiker with his arm pinned under a boulder for five days brought its own set of challenges for James Franco, who stars as Aron Ralston in Danny Boyle's true-life 127 Hours. The first thing he had to worry about, though, was his waistline.

"He told me I should go on a diet," Franco says of his first meeting with the director. "First of all, Aron was in great shape, but also he lost 40 pounds while he was there, from water deprivation mostly."

Of course, recreated a rapid weight loss during the film's production wasn't feasible, so Franco shed as much weight as he could before filming, then relied on some helpful tools to bulk back up when needed.

"We actually even built this prosthetic that we ended up unfortunately calling 'the plumper,'" he says. "It was just this mouthpiece that would plump my cheeks out for the early parts of the film, and then as he started deteriorating we could use smaller and smaller versions until we didn't use any."

One useful tool for capturing Ralston's ordeal was the extensive video diary he kept.

"When we watched the real videos, one of the more powerful things about them is how simple it was and how direct and connected it was," Franco remembers.

"Some of the video messages are verbatim what he actually said," Franco says.

However, as an actor, he wasn't interested in just regurgitating Ralston's words.

"Our whole kind of approach — not just for the video messages but in general — was that we would honour Aron's story and we would do everything that he did, but also we wanted to kind of have our own approach to the story," he explains.

"And so with the video messages, they were scripted, but I felt like Danny gave me the freedom to be just a little loose with the words. But every once in a while there'd be a line in there and I'd say to myself, 'I just won't say that because it's kind of stupid.' And then Danny would come to me and say, 'Well, actually, for whatever reason, Aron is insistent that you say those two words.'"

NED EHRBAR

127 Hours not typical acting role for Franco

James Franco is the first to admit 127 Hours isn't your typical film, since it wasn't his typical acting job, either.

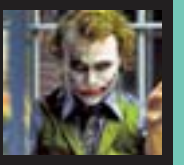
"There were a lot of things that were unusual," he says. "I mean, you don't usually spend most movies with an armed pinned behind a boulder. But then you also don't spend most movies alone or without other actors. So all of that took adjusting."

Franco has been making a lot of adjustments lately, choosing career moves that have surprised onlookers — including his recent stint on General Hospital and his return to school. But he claims he's not in a "why not?" phase of his career.

NED EHRBAR

2 scene

Scene in brief



The next Batman sequel has a title: The Dark Knight Rises.

Distributor Warner Bros. confirmed the name for director Christopher Nolan's third adventure about the DC Comics vigilante hero, which follows Batman Begins in 2005 and The Dark Knight in 2008.

The Dark Knight Rises" is due in theatres July 20, 2012.

Bucking Hollywood's current wave of 3-D movies, Nolan is not planning to shoot the film in 3-D.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood to hold Nashville benefit concert for flood relief in December



Funny man Ferrell gets animated

Former SNL star takes on role of an inept evildoer Actor enjoyed freedom he had with character

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Will Ferrell is such a humble guy that when he's asked what it's like to lead a big animated comedy like Megamind, the affable actor quickly diverts the attention.

"I don't really consider myself front and centre of this fine cast," said Ferrell before noticing a giant banner over his shoulder clearly focusing on the titular character. "So I guess I am front and centre."

Indeed he is. Ferrell is the voice of Megamind, a blue-skinned supervillain that suddenly defeats his nemesis and finds himself in the unlikely role of public defender.

It may be his second animated feature (after Curious George), but the movie does mark a first for the funnyman.

"It's the first time (my kids) have commented on something I've been in," laughed Ferrell admitting his children didn't necessarily affect his choice in the role.

"This was just kind of a decision based pretty much on wanting to try and do another animated movie and getting the chance to work with (director) Tom (McGrath) so my children were not consulted — nor are they ever consulted about anything. It's a very strict household."

Kidding aside, its obvious Ferrell had fun conjuring up the voice of an inept big-headed evildoer that hilariously mispronounces words like "school" — the result of much improvisation in the recording studio.

"There is a great amount of freedom in terms of getting to come up with stuff on the spot," said Ferrell, who has considerable respect for the art.

"What's lost on the project is how hard it is to articulate any emotional gearshift just with your voice. Playing the comedy is one thing but I think there's a real skill for any of these actors that can effectively do that consistently."



▶ Will Ferrell stars in the new animated film Megamind.

Always a Joker

- **We hope.** "I have a lot of tight leather pants in a vault," said Will Ferrell when asked what traits he shares with supervillain Megamind. "I don't wear them. I just keep them there and there is a part of my body — that I can't go into detail on — that is blue."



In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



HOLLYWOOD LOVES TO GIVE YOU A SCARE

A Saturday matinee screening of last year's Paranormal Activity was the first and only time I have ever heard anyone actually scream in a theatre. I don't mean a quiet whimper followed by an embarrassed laugh or a frightened little squeal. No, I mean a full-on, open throated howl of terror.

The release of Paranormal's prequel last weekend got me thinking about other big screen scream worthy scenes. So just in time for Halloween are some leave-the-lights-on movie moments.

If Alfred Hitchcock had any doubts about the effectiveness of the shower sequence in Psycho they must have been put to bed when he received an angry letter from the father whose daughter stopped bathing after seeing the bathtub murder scene in Les Diaboliques and then, more distressingly, refused to shower after seeing Psycho. Hitch's response to the concerned dad? "Send her to the dry cleaners."

The shower scene was terrifying but at least it was allowed to stay in the movie. In 1931 Frankenstein star Boris Karloff demanded the scene in the movie where the monster plays with a little girl, throwing flowers in a pond be cut from the picture. It's a cute scene until the beast runs out of flowers and tosses the little girl into the water, leaving her to drown. Karloff, and audiences, objected to the violence against the youngster and the scene was shortened, then removed altogether and remained unseen until a special videotape release 48 years later.

More recently The Exorcist (now beautifully restored on Blu Ray) so traumatized audiences with shots of the possessed Regan MacNeil's 360-degrees head spinning that in the U.K. the St. John's Ambulance Brigade were on-call at screenings to tend to fainters. Star Linda Blair says she wasn't traumatized by the film, but admits there has been one long lasting side effect. "You wouldn't believe how often people ask me to make my head spin around," she says.

Blair may have been unfazed while shooting her gruesome scenes, but not all actors emerge unscathed. Elisha Cuthbert was so grossed out while shooting the notorious blender scene in the down-and-dirty flick Captivity she says she felt "physically ill twice" and had to have a bucket nearby.

Scary scenes one and all, but recounting them begs the question, why are we drawn to them? The quick answer comes from Alfred Hitchcock who said, "People like to be scared when they feel safe."

Top 5

Here are Richard Crouse's top five scariest movie moments.

- **1. Alien:** The chest-bursting scene has been spoofed in everything from Spaceballs to Shrek 2, but there is nothing funny about the original's gruesome xenomorph birth sequence.
- **2. Dawn of the Dead:** What's scarier than a zombie baby? A really hungry zombie baby with a taste for brains!
- **3. Carrie:** The movie is filled with unforgettable images, but Sissy Spacek's bloody hand reaching out of her grave, grabbing Amy Irving's arm during the final dream scene is a shocker.
- **4. The Wizard of Oz:** Two words: Flying monkeys.
- **5. Freaks:** The remarkable finale shows the title characters making their way through the scariest rain storm ever presented on film to get their revenge on the manipulative (and murderous) Cleopatra.

Movie review See it twice ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ | See it now ⊕⊕⊕⊕ | Worth watching ⊕⊕⊕ | Yawn ⊕⊕ | Don't bother ⊕



A Millenium let down

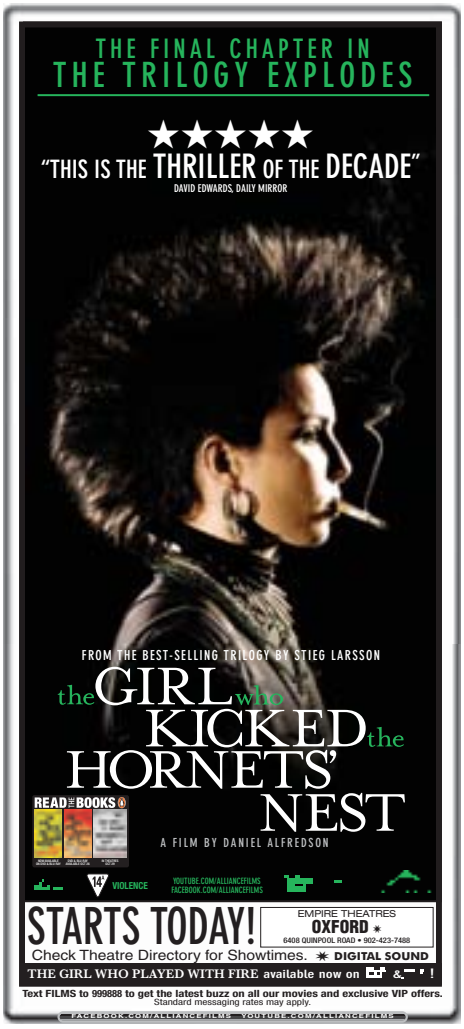
The Girl Who Kicked The Hornets Nest
Genre: Drama
Director: Daniel Alfredson
Stars: Noomi Rapace, Michael Nyqvist, Lena Endre
⊕⊕

The cinematic adaptation of Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy kicked off with a bang thanks to The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, which was excellent. Sadly, it ends on a whimper with this disappointing movie.

While the first film offered delightfully trashy sex-fueled intrigue, the sequels have gone for an irritating mix of ill-conceived action movie theatrics and endless exposition. This 2.5 hour conclusion is primarily dedicated to characters explaining the plot of the previous two movies and somehow the story arc of the series still doesn't quite make sense – and that's a difficult feat.

Lead actors Noomi Rapace and Michael Nyqvist are still compelling screen presences portraying intriguing characters, but even they are drowned out by all the exposition. The actors seem bored by the material this time and understandably so; audiences will likely feel the same way.

PHIL BROWN







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Hereafter (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Jackass 3D (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-2-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:40-9:40-10:10
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:45
Life as We Know It (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:45-9:35
Never Let Me Go (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:15-9:45
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:05-9:20
Red (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-6:50-9:45
Saw 3D (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:30-9:15-10
Score: A Hockey Musical (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 9:15
Secretariat (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-6:45-9:25
The Social Network (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:25 Dolby Stereo Wed 1:05-3:50-9:25 Dolby Stereo Thu 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:25
The Town (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:35-9:25
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:35-9:30

IMAX
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 2-6:30-9

OXFORD THEATRE
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (14) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 4:30-7:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 4:30-7:30 Wed-Thu 7:30

HANDOUT



▶ Paranormal State 2 opened last week.

PARK LANE
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Hereafter (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:20-9:10
Jackass 3 (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:50-11:59 Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-9:50
Let Me In (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:30
Life as We Know It (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 1-3:30-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:30-4:05-7:10-9:40-11:50 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 1:30-4:05-7:10-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-7:10-9:40
Red (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:05-3:45-6:50-9:25-11:45 Stadium Seating Sun 1:05-3:45-6:50-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:25
Saw: The Final Chapter (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:15-4:7:10-9:30-11:40 Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-4-7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7:10-9:30
The Social Network (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:20-9 Stadium Seating Mon 3:40-9:15 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:40-6:20-9
The Town (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40 Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 9:15
You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-3:50-7:9:20-11:25 Stadium Seating Sun 1:10-3:50-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:20

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Hereafter (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
Jackass 3D (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:15-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:10-4:30-7:15-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:15-9:25
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (STC) Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:40-4:05
Life as We Know It (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:30-9
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 7:05-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:50-4:15-7:05-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:05-9:10
Red (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:50-4:25-6:50-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15
Saw 3D (18) Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Secretariat (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Hereafter (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:30
Jackass 3D (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:25-6:55-8:55-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:25-6:55-8:55-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:25-6:55-8:55-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:25-6:55-8:55-9:20
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4
Life as We Know It (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:15-9
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:35-4:10-7:30-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:35-4:10-7:05-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:35-4:10-7:30-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 2-4:30-7:05-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:35-4:10-7:05-9:25
Red (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:20-4:25-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:20-4:25-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:15-9:50
Saw 3D (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:45-4:15-6:45-7:20-9:05-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:45-4:15-6:45-7:20-9:05-9:35
Secretariat (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:9:45
The Social Network (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1-3:45-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1-3:45-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-3:45-6:30-9:15
The Town (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:10
You Again (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:40

TRURO

TRURO
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

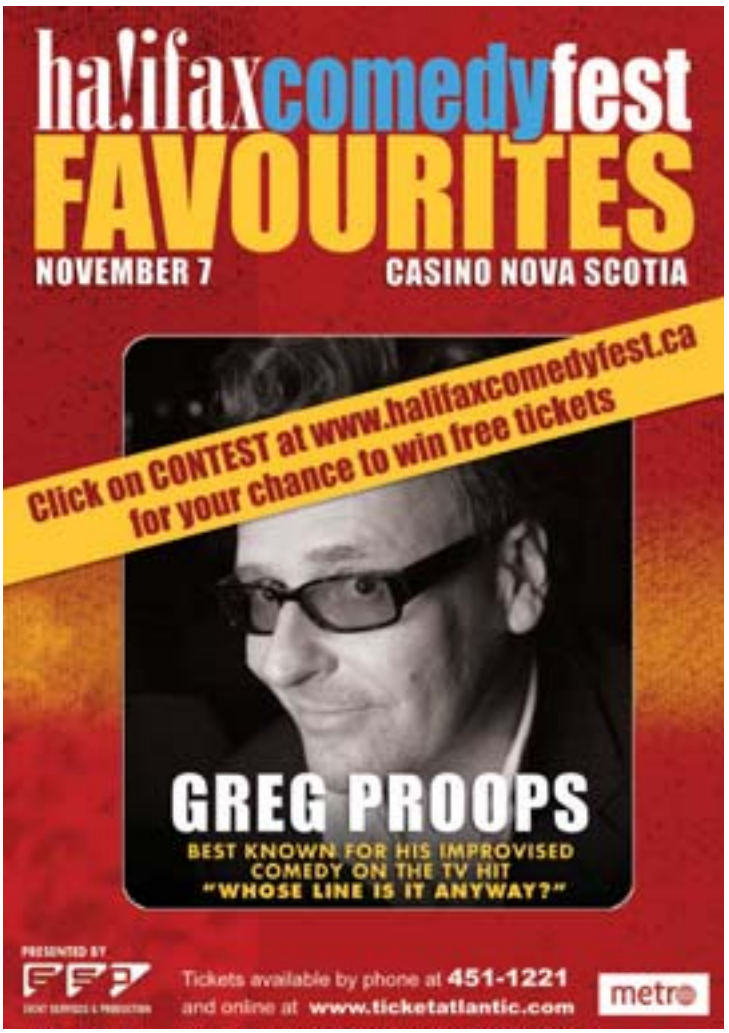
Hereafter (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10
Jackass 3 (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:35-6:50-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-8:50
Life as We Know It (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:40-9:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:20-6:40-9:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:40-9:05
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:40-7:10-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15
Red (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:35-9 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:05-6:35-9 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:35-9
Saw 3D (18) Stadium Seating Fri 6:55-8:55 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:30-6:55-8:55 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:55-8:55
Secretariat (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:10-6:45-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Alpha and Omega (STC) Sat-Sun 3:05
Hereafter (STC) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:20 No Passes Sat 2:45-6:30-9:20 No Passes Sun 2:45-5:45-8:35 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:35
Jackass 3 (14) Fri 6:50-9:05 Sat 3:20-6:50-9:05 Sun 3:20-6:05-8:20 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:20
Life as We Know It (PG) Fri-Sat 7:05-9:35 Sun-Tue 6:20-8:50 Wed-Thu 9:15
Paranormal Activity 2 (STC) No Passes Fri 7-9:15 No Passes Sat 3:30-7-9:15 No Passes Sun 3:30-6:15-8:30 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:30
Red (PG) Fri 6:35-9:10 Sat 3-6:35-9:10 Sun 3-5:50-8:25 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:25
Saw: The Final Chapter (18) Fri 7:15-9:25 Sat 3:15-7:15-9:25 Sun 3:15-6:25-8:40 Mon-Thu 6:25-8:40
Secretariat (G) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat 2:50-6:45-9:30 Sun 2:50-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9





TV Picks

Hoarding and dream satire

South Park skewers one of the big reality trends du jour, hoarding, and one of the year's biggest movies, Inception. The episode, titled Insheeption, sees Stan confronting his hoarding issues – and a locker filled with maggot-infested food – while his dad finds himself trapped in a dream land. (Friday, Comedy Network)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

United, we can change the world

We Day 2010 is a two-hour special recapping two youth-empowerment events staged recently in Toronto and Vancouver. Among the social issues speakers and entertainers that appeared were Al Gore, Barenaked Ladies, Craig and Marc Kielburger, Deepak Chopra, K'naan, Martin Sheen, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., and Rick Hansen. (Saturday, CTV)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let's do the time warp again

What would Halloween be without a midnight screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show? Learn the audience participation cues, and do the Time Warp with the 1975 classic. (Saturday, CTV)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A new side of Sarah

Whatever you may think of Sarah Palin, the fact remains Alaska is magnificent with her as its presenter.

Sarah Palin's Alaska, premiering on TLC on Nov. 14, adds TV host to Palin's crowded resume, which already includes former governor, former GOP vice-presidential candidate, bestselling author and conservative superstar.

Palin also is a wife, a mother of five and a grandmother, of course, and her new series integrates her home life with Alaska's great outdoors.

Judging from the first of eight episodes, Sarah Palin's Alaska keeps politics out of the picture. Sure, the show is effective in selling the Palin brand. But along the way, Palin throws herself into selling the grandeur of Alaska.

GILLES MINGASSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is shown in a scene from the reality series Sarah Palin's Alaska.

The much-anticipated documentary series, shot last summer, is based at Palin's lakeside home in Wasilla. There, cupcakes are baked and kids do their chores (or hear about it from Palin). Then Palin sets off, with family members in tow, on a jaunt such as salmon fishing on Big River Lake, where, almost within reach at the shoreline, a family of bears keeps them amused.

"Girls, when you cast, don't aim toward the bear," Palin cautions daughter Piper and niece McKinley in their boat.

"Why?" is the automatic comeback. Any parent will instantly relate.

Later in the program, Palin demonstrates mettle (and alarm) as she goes rock-climbing with her husband, Todd, at Denali National Park – and gets stuck midway.

The guide calls down instructions and encouragement, but Palin is stalled.

"I just don't like heights!" she declares. "I was so cocky – I'm being punished for it. I don't know if I can do this!"

It's a remarkable admission from this famously can-do personality, and, as viewers are informed, some 45 minutes pass before she figures out how to continue her ascent. Then she does it.

"That's so much worse than I ever thought it would be!" she says after reaching the summit.

The series is produced by Mark Burnett, whose many credits include Survivor and The Apprentice. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, he marveled at how gung-ho all the Palins were in taking part.

"It would start out with, 'We're gonna have Sarah and Todd do something,'" Burnett said. "And as she's getting ready, she would say, 'Piper, you want to come? Willow, you want to come?' Take the politics away, and this is a family, and they hang out a lot together." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOUR HALLOWEEN PLAYLIST



This weekend will be frantic with Halloween parties. But what to include on the playlist? Here's what I think is an essential list that DOESN'T include clichés like Thriller, Ghostbusters and The Monster Mash.

Alien Sex Fiend/Now I'm Feeling Zombified

Born in the Batcave (a London club that served as the original crypt for the British Goth scene), ASF featured Nik Fiend on vocals. He used to work the cloakroom and given the nature of the clientele, I'm sure he handled many actual cloaks.

Bauhaus/Bela Lugosi's Dead

Bauhaus' first single—a sprawling nine-and-a-half minute echo-drenched monster — came out in August 1979. Point of trivia: the artwork for the original single is a still from The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, a horror film from 1920.

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds/Red Right Hand

Nick scooped the title Milton's Paradise Lost and turned it into the story of a serial killer from the ghetto.

Legend has it this song inspired the entire vibe of the soundtrack from the first X-Files movie.

The Birthday Party/Release the Bats

Before Nick moved to England, he fronted the Birthday Party, one of Goth's first wave of groups. One listen and you'll be swatting imaginary bats away from your head all night.

Roky Erickson/Burn the Flames

A vampire sits at a piano exhorting the eternal flames to burn higher. Used in Return of the Living Dead.

Oingo Boingo/Dead Man's Party

The title track of OB's fourth album back in 1985. The video featuring dancing skeletons became indelibly connected to the band for the rest of their career. Interesting fact: Oingo Boingo leader Danny Elfman now composes for movies and television. He wrote the theme for The Simpsons.

Mike Oldfield/Tubular Bells

When director William Friedkin was looking for something supernaturally scary to serve as the theme for The Exorcist, he found it in the opening sequence of a just-released one-man-opus called Tubular Bells by Englishman Mike Oldfield.

The entire piece is almost 26 minutes long, but all you really need is the first four minutes.

The Von Drats/Phantom Chop

Group from Dratsylvannia (at least that's what they told me) temporarily living in Toronto until the villagers give up and go home with their pitchforks. They learned everything they needed to know about music from the theme song of The Munsters. Strats and Fender amps with the tremolo set on "kill."

Oh baby!

Mariah Carey is going to have to add lullabies to her repertoire.

The superstar singer confirmed on NBC's Today show Thursday that she and husband Nick Cannon are expecting their first child. Carey says the baby is due in the spring.

Carey had declined to discuss her pregnancy, the subject of rampant speculation for months, until now.

"Yes, we are pregnant, it's true," she said in an interview with Access Hollywood's Billy Bush that was shown on Today.

"It's been a long journey, but it's been tough because I've been trying to ... hold on to a shred of privacy, and that was not easy."

Carey, 40, and Cannon, 30, have been the subject of a baby watch since they got married after a whirlwind romance two years ago.

They laughed off the rumours when they occurred soon after their wedding.

"We thought it was fun, because they kept saying, 'Oh she's pregnant.' Yeah, whatever. So we took the test and it was positive," she said.

But Carey had a miscarriage soon afterward.

"It was really sad, so we really had to absorb this and take it in," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

APRIL L. BROWN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Mariah Carey





7th heaven

JAMES FRANCO

BOOK
Movie star, actor, artist, grad student, and now, author. James Franco has released his debut novel, Palo Alto, a collection of short stories about teens who drink, get high and shoot guns. Highlights of the collection include Emily, about a girl who can't get a date for the high school dance, and Killing Animals, about boys who go shooting with a BB gun.

SUBMITTED



▶ James Franco's new book Palo Alto

THE PACIFIC

DVD
Tom Hanks, Steven Speilberg and Gary Goetzman's ambitious and much lauded mini series about the Second World War is available Tuesday on DVD. If you missed it's HBO run, the series is about the real life journeys of three U.S. marines during the conflict in the Pacific.

DEAD SET

TV
Planning to spend Halloween night inside, lights turned off and avoiding any trick-or-treaters? Space is showing a mini-marathon of the five-part British TV series about zombies, Dead Set. Enjoy!

TOY STORY 3

DVD
Woody, Buzz Lightyear and Jessie dominated the box office earlier this year, and now they are ready to take over your DVD or Blu-ray. Hitting shelves of Tuesday, the new installement in the series follows the toys as they are mistakenly donated to a children's daycare.


▶ Toy Story 3

HOW TO SQUEEZE A LEMON

BOOK
Are you in a cooking conundrum? The fine folks at Fine Cooking magazine — and their readers — have come up with How To Squeeze a Lemon: 1,023 Kitchen Tips, Food Fixes and Handy Techniques to turn you into a domestic diva. The manual is split into seven parts and comes with a handy index.

GETTY IMAGES


▶ Katy Perry

KATY PERRY

MUSIC
Newlywed singer Katy Perry released her newest song, Firework, last week. The song offers encouragement to anyone being bullied or who feels alone — all with Perry's trademark pop sound. METRO



GETTY IMAGES


Metro pick
▶ Madonna

HARD CANDY

POP CULTURE So she is in her 50s, and some people would also argue Madonna looks pretty good for her age. Well, Madge is now branching out into the world of gym memberships and plans to open her own fitness empire, called Hard Candy. The first locale opens in Mexico City in November. METRO

Mix of Six

Music

Sarah Harmer, Oct. 29, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

This Canadian singer-songwriter is touring the country in support of her first album in five years – oh little fire. Her special guest is Joey Wright. Tickets are $39 and available through the Dalhousie University Arts Centre box office.

Theatre

7 Stories, Oct. 29-Nov. 14, Fountain Hall, Neptune Theatre

Alberta playwright Morris Panych's award-winning work tells seven stories from a window ledge seven stories above ground – as the main character decides whether to take the stairs or jump to get down. Call 429-7070 or visit neptunetheatre.com for ticket information.

Children's Theatre

The Wiggles Wiggly Circus Live, Oct. 30 & Oct. 31, Halifax Metro Centre

The world's No. 1 preschool entertainers are coming to Halifax for three shows, and bringing along their friends like Dorothy the Dinosaur, Henry the Octopus and all the Wiggly Dancers. Saturday, 12:30 and 4 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets range in price from $17 to $81 and are available through Ticket Atlantic.

Haunted House

Fear The Darkness Haunted House, through Oct. 31, Alderney Landing

If you're looking to get into the Halloween spirit, then this is the place to be. The haunted house is open to the public each night from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is $8, with warm clothing recommended. A wait of between 30 to 45 minutes is also expected.

Convention

Hal-Con Sci Fi Convention, Oct.29- Oct. 31, Lord Nelson Hotel

This unique three-day event is open to the public and includes workshops, celebrity guest appearances, gaming events (non-gambling), board game contests, masquerade/costume ball and more. Visit halcon.com for complete information.

Music

Symphony Nova Scotia, Oct. 31, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, 4 p.m.

The symphony is getting into the Halloween spirit. The performers will be in concert and perform the very best in ghoulish classics for this spooky family concert. Visit symphonynovascotia.com for complete information. METRO



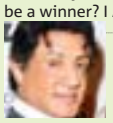
Celebrity tweets

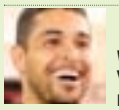
Jackie Collins
[@jackiecollins]

Charlie Sheens gotta relax!!

Kellan Lutz
[@kellanlutz]

The BEST and MOST BEAUTIFUL things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the HEART.

Sylvster Stallone
[@TheSlyStallone] Wanna be a winner? I

Approach want you want in this life like a poker game – Play the odds but be willing to let it all ride no matter what.


Wilmer Valderrama
[@WillyVille] Failure is just a miscalculated attempt...

Golf is good therapy

ZEN. While husband Michael Douglas has continued his battle with throat cancer, Catherine Zeta-Jones reported that things are "business as usual" as she attended a golf event in China, according to Yahoo News.

"There's nothing better than just having nothing else to focus on than a still white ball, and nobody's looking," she said. "I find it very therapeutic ... there's a privacy and a kind of zen quality to golf that I love."

METRO

On-set romance is over

PROFESSIONAL Gossip Girl co-stars Blake Lively and Penn Badgley have reportedly called off their off-screen romance, sources tell Us Weekly, but it hasn't caused any waves on set yet.

"They're professionals," a source says. "They're still good friends and hang out on the set. METRO


▶ Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake.

Has he been cheating?

Timberlake says Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are history

Justin Timberlake reportedly cheated on Jessica Biel with The Daily Show correspondent Olivia Munn after convincing Munn his relationship with Biel was actually over, sources tell Us Weekly. Munn had reportedly spurned his advances, but Timberlake "has been telling people it's over with Jessica, even though the reality is he's just doing it behind her back," the source says, adding that he was convincing enough for Munn to invite him back to her hotel room, where "they were openly affectionate." Timberlake's rep denies the story

METRO



Smith's doctor acquitted, psychiatrist guilty

A jury yesterday convicted Anna Nicole Smith's psychiatrist Khristine Eroshevich and boyfriend Howard K. Stern of conspiracy counts, but acquitted the doctor who prescribed drugs for her of all charges.

The only conviction against Stern was for giving false names and acting by fraud to obtain prescriptions. Eroshevich was also convicted of unlawfully prescribing Vicodin by fraud.

The jury acquitted defendant Dr. Sandeep Kapoor of all charges. The jury found the prosecution did not present enough evidence to convict Kapoor of six charges that he provided excessive prescription drugs to Smith.


▶ Anna Nicole Smith

The defendants were charged with conspiracy, excessive prescribing of opiates and sedatives to an addict, and fraudulently obtaining drugs by using false names.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Costume fit for a Hollywood princess

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes want only the best for their daughter Suri Cruise, and that goes for her Halloween costume, too. The proud parents spent approximately $6,000 on a princess costume featuring a tulle skirt and pearl embroidery for the fashion-conscious 4-year-old, according to In Touch. "Suri already has her fairy-princess gown and will be wearing diamonds with her costume," a source says. METRO


▶ Suri Cruise

Gemini Awards mark 25 years

Hawaii Five-0's Grace Park, the cast of Rookie Blue, and Olympic ice dancing champs Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir are among the presenters slated for the upcoming Gemini Awards.

The best in Canadian television will be feted at a televised bash hosted by Glee star Cory Monteith in Toronto.

Other presenters include Enrico Colantoni of Flashpoint, Fred Ewanuick of Dan For Mayor, and Allan Hawco of Republic of Doyle.

Leading nominees include the cop show Flashpoint and coverage of the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Geminis, and organizers are inviting TV fans to choose their favourite Canadian series from the last 25 years at www.favetvshow.ca. The top picks will be announced throughout the broadcast.

The Gemini Awards air November 13 on Global and Showcase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Got a big cat? Call Ryan Kwanten

True Blood star Ryan Kwanten says he's the "go to guy" when a production calls for working with panthers, though he has a healthy fear of them.

Real panthers were used in the HBO series, and Kwanten said Thursday he was supposed to work with a panther in his new Australian Western Red Hill, until he learned the feline had turned on its owner in a deadly attack.

Instead, Kwanten acted while writer/director Patrick Hughes pretended to be the feline off camera. Kwanten joked that it was his "finest bit of acting to keep a straight face and try to stay in it while my director was licking his paws and carrying on." Another panther was filmed for scenes added in later.

Kwanten, who plays Jason Stackhouse in True Blood, said the hairs on his back stand up when panthers are on the set, but the animals are always chained.

"You're definitely on your toes" when working with the big cats, he said.

Red Hill debuts in theatres Nov. 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Halloween

Don't be tricked by unsafe treats

An adult should always inspect the treats that children collect when they go door-to-door on Halloween night, says a reminder posted Monday by Health Canada: "Parents or caregivers are encouraged to remind kids not to accept — and especially not to eat — homemade candy or baked goods."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fruit and cottage cheese nutritious and fun topping for fruit salad, cereal. Scan code for news

Pasta problems? We got you covered

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ The bowtie shape of farfalle pasta helps carry plenty of sauce as well as the pieces of meat to your mouth.

How to cook, dress and eat every pasta in every shape

Chances are you know linguine goes with clam sauce and fettuccine loves Alfredo. But which pasta pairs with pesto? Or a hefty carbonara?

"Pasta has evolved over many hundreds of years in Italy and it's taken a long time for them to work out what tastes best," says British chef Jacob Kenedy, co-author with graphic designer Caz Hildebrand of The Geometry of Pasta. Together they are advocates of a simple truth: Pasta and sauce, correctly paired, yield a sublime experience.

They had plenty of material to work with. More than 300 shapes of pasta exist, each with a specific texture and strategy for delivering flavours.

In general, lighter sauces pair well with thin pastas. Oily, punchy sauces go with thicker pastas. Sauce will cling to a rough-textured pasta, such as a ridged penne, Kenedy says, while a smoother one like spaghetti will create a more delicate dish. Short tubes and cup shapes are good for "sauces with bits in them," Kenedy says, such as those with diced meat or vegetables.

"More intricate shapes are quite fun to play with," he says. "It's like when you're a little kid and you put things in your mouth."

For instance, pairing twisted strands of gemelli with long, smooth green beans creates a pun in your mouth, as does pairing snail-shaped lumache with actual snails. "That's a joke, but it does eat well together," Kenedy says.

And a no-fail formula? If you know which region a shape comes from, the sauce from that region will almost certainly be a natural mate. Liguria's spiral-shaped trofie were designed to trap the garlic and basil of pesto Genovese, just as Rome's massive, pipe-like bucatini goes with silky, unctuous carbonara, possibly named for the charcoal workers ("carbone" means charcoal) the meal supposedly sustained.

Which doesn't mean you need to fill your cupboard with dozens of different pastas. But at least make room for a few new ideas.

"It's a shame not to feel encouraged to try some of these amazing shapes," says Hildebrand.

Ingredients :

- 250 g (1/2 lb) farfalle pasta
- 75 ml (5 tbsp) heavy cream
- 50 g (1 3/4 oz) prosciutto, sliced into 1-cm (1/2-inch) strips
- Generous 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Parmesan, plus extra to serve
- 2 egg yolks
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Farfalle With Prosciutto and Cream

Preparation:

1. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta to al dente (still barely firm at the centre) according to package directions.
2. While pasta cooks, in a large bowl, combine cream, prosciutto, Parmesan and egg yolks. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Drain farfalle and toss into sauce. Serve with extra cheese. Makes 4 servings.

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Taylor rushing towards record

Huskies' speedy receiver/returner needs 63 punt-return yards to tie AUS record



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

It doesn't seem to matter how Jahmeek Taylor gets the football, the sense of anticipation has become the same every time.

"Every time he touches the ball, the team believes he can score," says Saint Mary's Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah.

The third-year Huskie from Mississauga, Ont., is used as a returner, receiver and even as a rusher, and has piled up a staggering 1,329 all-purpose yards and six touchdowns through seven games.

His 714 punt-return yards, meanwhile, are just 63 away from Richard Karikari's Atlantic University Sport record of 777 heading into the final game of the season against the Acadia Axemen in Wolfville on Saturday at 2 p.m.

"I have the easy job out there — I just catch the ball and run," Taylor says.

"If you watch the tape, I catch the ball with 10 yards and not one player in front of me. Those guys are working their butts off making those blocks."

Taylor says he ran a staggering 4.4-second 40-yard dash in training camp, though it wasn't timed electronically.

Either way, he's a blur on the field and his ability to make opponents miss has turned the former AUS rookie of the year into a star.

"It's his speed, but he's also so elusive when he has the ball," Sumarah says.

"He just has a knack and he has incredible vision."

The Huskies are hoping to help Taylor set the AUS return-yardage record on Saturday, but also need a win to avoid a semifinal game and secure a bye to the conference final.

Both the Huskies and Axemen have 4-3 records and have split two head-to-head meetings this season.

"We know each other like the back of our hands," Taylor says.

"We know exactly what they're going to run, and we have to execute on our plays."

Bye the way

- The team earning the semifinal bye has gone on to win the AUS title every year since the format was implemented in 2002.
- "The bye is the most important thing you can get in the AUS," Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah said.
- "It's an extra game, more chance for injuries and a whole slew of things that can go wrong opposed to going right."

MATTHEW WUEST

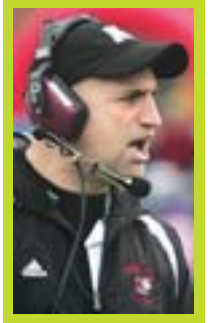
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



▶ Saint Mary's Huskies receiver/returner Jahmeek Taylor.

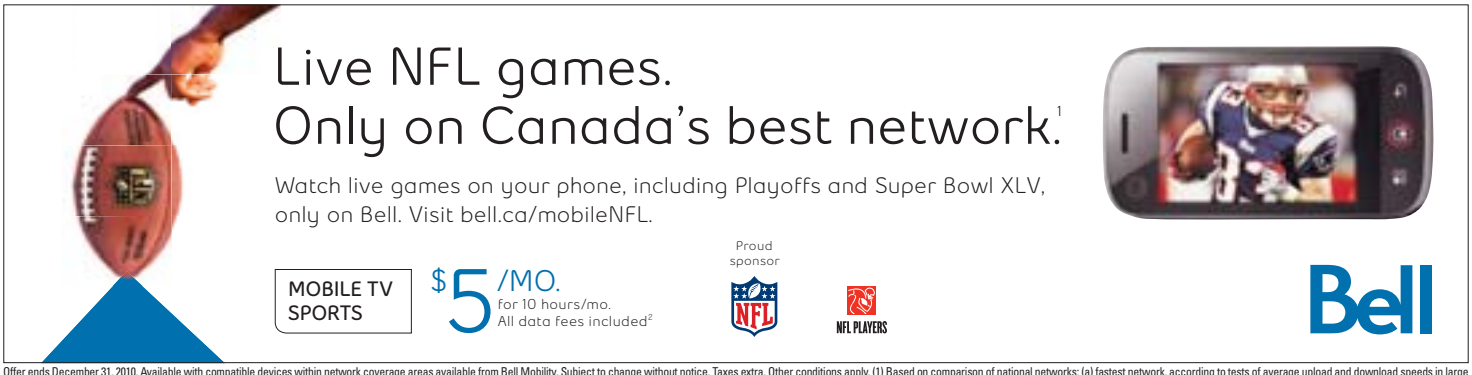
4 sports

Quoted



"We've gotten better week to week. Our intensity has gone up. The most important thing is we're finding ways to win games, not making as many mistakes, executing more on offence, and defensively we've been fantastic on this (four-game winning streak). When you get two-and-outs, you get more offensive opportunities."

STEVE SUMARAH, HEAD COACH OF THE SAINT MARY'S HUSKIES FOOTBALL TEAM.



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Moose veterans still adjusting to the Smith-era

- Some players enduring struggles under new head coach Bobby Smith
- Herd set for weekend road trip to play P.E.I. Rocket and Moncton Wildcats

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Halifax Mooseheads captain Travis Randell says there has been an adjustment period to new head coach Bobby Smith.

MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Halifax Mooseheads' veterans are struggling to find their way in their first few games under new head coach Bobby Smith.

Since winning their first game after the majority owner took over for Cam Russell on Oct. 21, the Mooseheads have lost three straight and now hit the road to play the P.E.I. Rocket on Friday and the Moncton Wildcats on Saturday.

Some veterans have been cast in new roles and the adjustment obviously hasn't happened overnight.

"It's two different personalities, two different coaches," said captain Travis Randell. "Especially guys who have been here for a couple of years, you got to know (Cam's) expectations. It's been an eye-opener for some players but you have to play with the cards you're dealt and Bobby's a great coach."

Veterans are few and far between on the Herd, with Randell and goalie Mathieu Corbeil the only 19-year-olds and Gerrad Grant, Charles Bety and Pascal Amyot the 20-year-old over-agers.

But the veteran skaters have combined for just one assist and a nasty minus-16 rating during the losing streak, while Corbeil's save percentage was a hair above .700.

Amyot said Smith runs practices differently than Russell, but that he hasn't significantly changed the Mooseheads' systems. He said it's up to the players to turn things around.

"After all, it isn't Bobby and it wasn't Cam playing the games, it's us," Amyot said. "We have to bring it and we can't blame coaches. We have to look at ourselves and see what we can do better to win more games."

The Halifax Mooseheads are 5-12-1, 16th among 18 teams in the QMJHL.

By the numbers



▶ Martin Frk

- Moose winger Martin Frk, 17, is second in rookie scoring with 18 points in 18 games. Teammate Darcy Ashley is tied for fifth with 12 points.
- Centre Brent Andrews, 17, is 10th in the QMJHL with a 59.4 percent success rate on faceoffs.
- Defenceman Garrett Clarke, 18, leads the league with 51 penalty minutes in 17 games. Alex Lemieux (41) and Sawyer Hannay (39) are also in the top five.
- The Mooseheads are on pace for a 41-point season on a 19-46-3 record. That's squarely between their back-to-back last-place finishes of 33 and 46 points.

6

Number of consecutive games the Mooseheads play at the Metro Centre following this weekend's two-game road trip.

Rainmen select big man in PBL draft

The Halifax Rainmen selected six-foot-10 centre Aaron Spears with the sixth overall pick in the Premier Basketball League draft last night in Chicago.

Spears played four seasons at the NCAA Division I level, spending two at Illinois and two at St. John's from 2002 to 2007.

"They want me to be a down-low presence," Spears said on the draft webcast. "Play hard, rough, and rebound the ball."

His best college season, in 2006-07, saw him average 7.2 points and 3.0 rebounds in 26 games.

With their second pick, 14th overall, the Rainmen took six-foot-seven forward Kyle Cuffe, who also played college ball at St. John's. Cuffe, from Bronx, N.Y., averaged 9.2 points and 6.2 rebounds in two NCAA seasons.

MATTHEW WUEST

Auld to get first start in goal for Habs

The much-travelled Alex Auld will be in another unfamiliar place Friday night — the Montreal Canadiens net as the starting goaltender.

Canadiens coach Jacques Martin tabbed Auld to play against the Islanders in New York after Carey Price started the team's first nine regular-season games.

"He's a veteran, he's had to deal with this situation before but it's definitely a challenge for him," Martin said Thursday. "We have four games this week and I thought it was time to give Auld a chance."

And Auld was certainly appreciative.

"Anytime you get an opportunity with a new team you're excited," said Auld. "Maybe a few years ago I would have dwelled on it more but now my focus is day-to-day.

"I found that if you start worrying about the games you're not playing then you're not ready when it's your turn. I just had to stay sharp. I knew it would come."

Price, who will be back in goal at home Saturday night against the Florida Panthers, has earned a rest.

2.32

Price has been solid this year, going 6-2-1 with a 2.32 GAA and .913 save percentage.

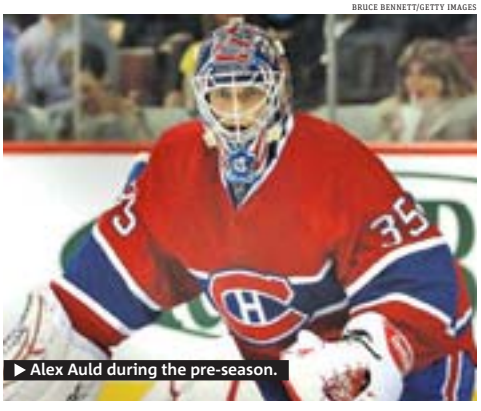
There was concern as the campaign began whether Price could handle the starting job after losing it last season to Jaroslav Halak, who was spectacular in the Canadiens surprise playoff run to the Eastern Conference final.

Unable to keep both goalies, who were both eligible to become restricted free agents July 1, general manager Pierre Gauthier went for Price's combination of size and talent and traded Halak to the St. Louis Blues for prospects Lars Eller and Ian Schultz.

Auld, 29, signed a one-year $1-million US contract as a free agent to back up Price and be a guiding influence on the 23-year-old who is brimming with skill but who has not always been mentally sharp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Alex Auld during the pre-season.

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United looks to Hernandez

- Young striker stepping up while Rooney struggles
- Team trails Chelsea by 5 points for top spot in league

Javier Hernandez's strong start at Manchester United is increasing the weight of expectation on him as Wayne Rooney struggles with fitness and form.

The 22-year-old Mexico striker has scored three goals in his last two games to help earn victories over Stoke in the Premier League and Wolverhampton Wanderers in the League Cup.

But the off-season recruit could face his toughest domestic test yet against Tottenham on Saturday — the first time he has faced one of last season's top four in a league encounter.

United signed Hernandez from Mexican club Guadalajara before impressing for Mexico at the World Cup.

"It's obviously early days for him but he's made a really good impression at the club," said fellow striker Michael Owen, who is out with a hamstring injury. "He's young, sharp and a good finisher. He seems to be thriving. He's always got a smile on his face. He enjoys his football and the fans have taken to him already."

United is five points adrift of leader Chelsea, with the 18-time champions tied on 17 points with Arsenal and Manchester City.

Tottenham, which is a further two points behind in fifth, has not won at United since 1989. But playmaker Luka Modric was encouraged by the way his team scored three second-half goals in the 4-3 loss to Inter Milan in the Champions League last week.

The top five teams are all in action Saturday: Arsenal hosts West Ham, Man City goes to Wolves and Chelsea is at Blackburn.

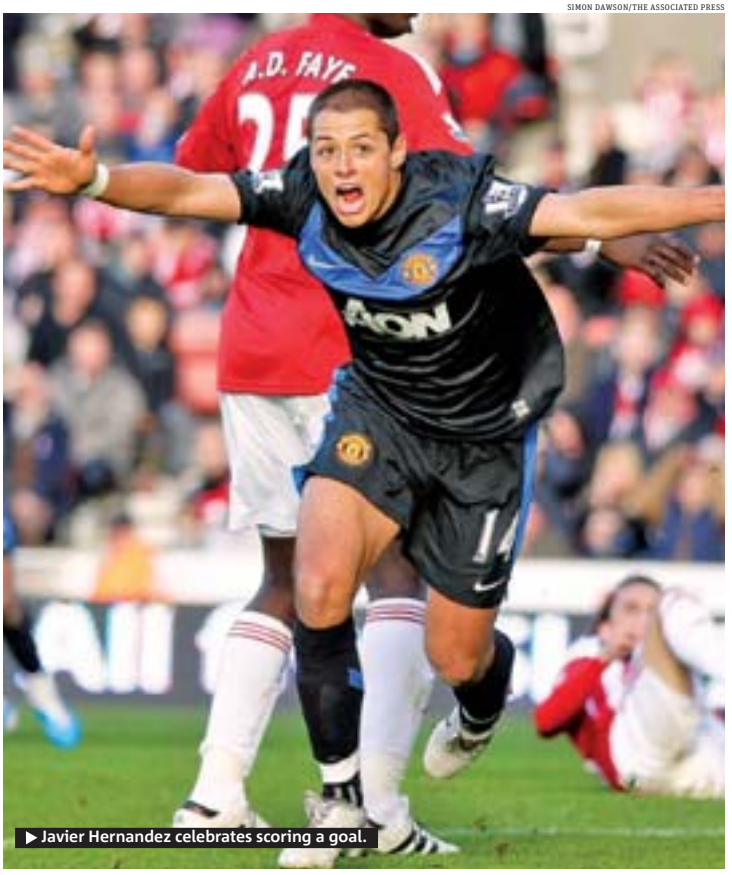
Chelsea captain John Terry is preparing for a physical contest at Ewood Park.

"We've got to go there and have a fight with them," he said. "We have to be prepared for a scrap."

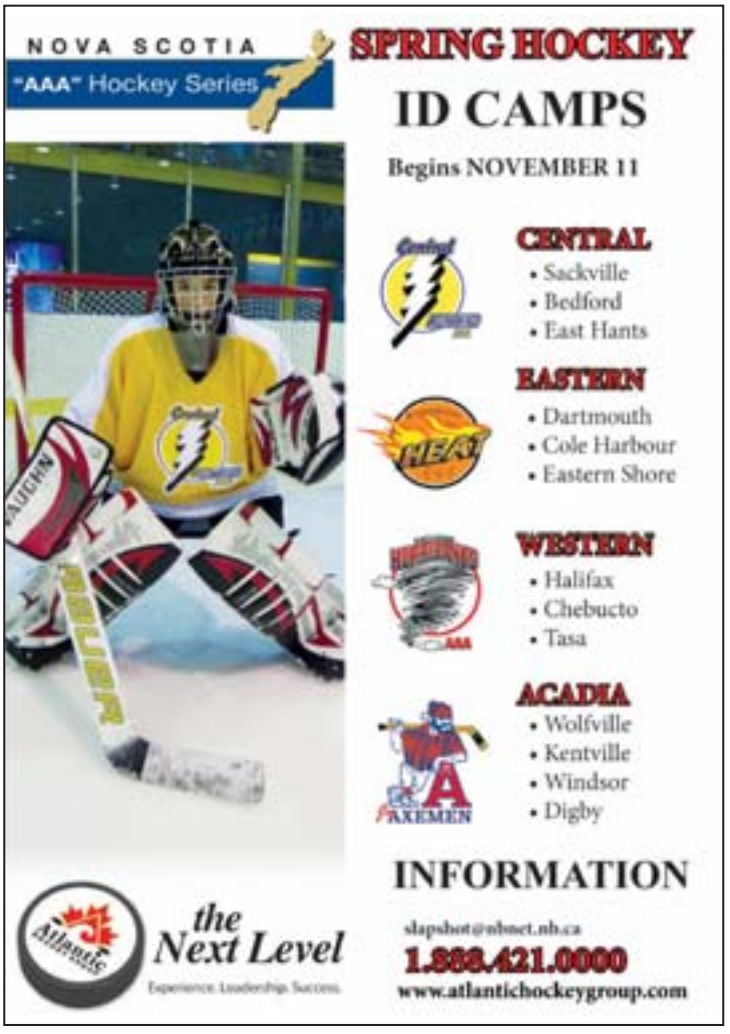
Manchester City, which is looking to rebound from its 2-0 loss to Arsenal, will be without striker Carlos Tevez against Wolves due to a thigh injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIMON DAWSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Javier Hernandez celebrates scoring a goal.



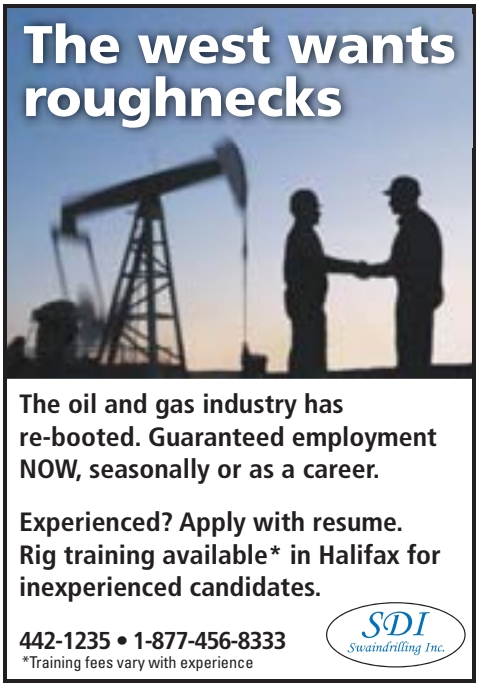




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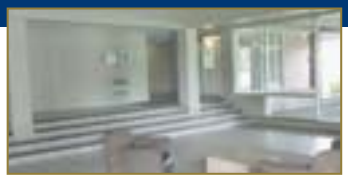
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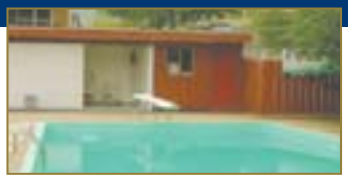


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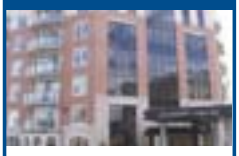
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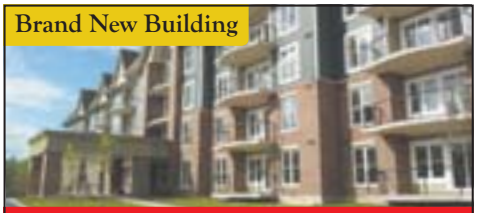
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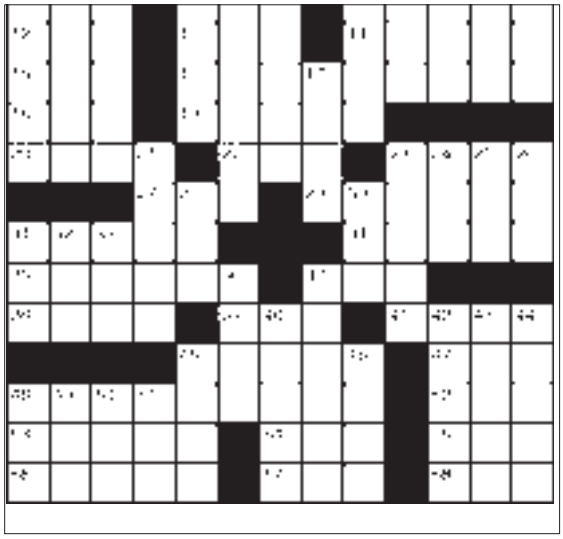
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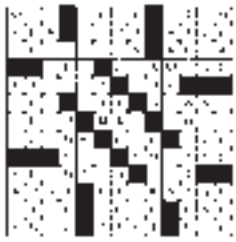
Crossword



Across
1 Lawyers' org.
4 Predicament
7 Was able to
12 In need of repair
13 Work with
14 Permanent prisoner
15 Scarlet
16 Thomas Bulfinch's subject
18 — Aviv
19 Tartan pattern
20 Pinnacle
22 Last (Abbr.)
23 "Bye"
27 Slippery tree
29 Japanese governor
31 Unaccompanied
34 Strong adhesive
35 Offer unwanted advice
37 "CSI" evidence
38 Largest of the seven
39 A Gabor sister
41 Pizzazz
45 Analgesics' targets
47 Fresh
48 "The Da Vinci Code" field
52 Compete
53 Reverent
54 Author Deighton
55 Individual
56 Tending to mimic
57 Curved path
58 Still

Down
1 Heart line
2 Censor's sound
3 Confuse
4 Leap
5 Sanctuary
6 Platinum, e.g.
7 Oaf
8 Lubricant
9 Venusian vessel
10 Journey segment
11 Parched
17 Bat stats
21 Ohio city
23 November birthstone
24 Past
25 Formal wear
26 Whatever amount
28 Allow
30 Coop denizen
31 Wanted poster abbr.
32 Grafton's "— for Lawless"
33 Kimono closer
36 Fervor
37 Peril
40 String instrument
42 Ambassador's aide
43 Paris' river
44 Comment in 140 characters or fewer
45 Luxurious
46 Harmonization
48 Resort
49 Puppy's call
50 "Ostentatious? — ?!"
51 Clear the tables

▶ Yesterday's answer



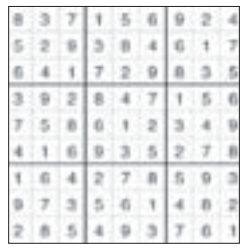
Sudoku

	1				6			
4			2	1		9	5	
3		8					1	
	2	3		9				
			7		2			
				4		5	2	
	6					7		8
	8	1		5	3			4
			6				9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



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LOVE YOU, SUE.. TEI

To my loving fiancee, I love you soo much! I am looking forward to many years and memories babe:)
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You may not much like what you are expected to do today but do it anyway and do it with passion and commitment.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't take it personally if a friend or work colleague disagrees with you loudly today. Usually you are pretty robust but the Sun in your opposite sign lowers your resistance to criticism. It's not worth starting a fight over.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Others can make light of your achievements if they so wish but you know what you have done and how much it is worth. Chances are they're jealous that you make it all look so easy. Make them even more jealous today.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Life moves in cycles and the cycle you are now in the middle of is positive in the extreme. Having said that, with values planet Venus moving retrograde you cannot afford to take anything for granted.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You may not be much in the mood for taking action but the planets indicate this is a good time to push through changes of a personal nature.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Interesting information will come your way today, the kind of information that could be worth a lot of money. Keep what you learn to yourself for the time being. The fewer know about it the larger your profit will be.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 The planets indicate that in a matter of days your viewpoint will improve dramatically and you won't feel so down in the dumps. The world is always as good (or as bad) as you want it to be.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun close to Venus in your birth sign is an excellent omen for affairs of the heart and anything related to money and property.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your imagination is working overtime at the moment and some of the creative ideas you've come up with are bordering on genius. But what are you going to do with those ideas?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Make the most of the good things that come your way — of which there will be plenty over the next few days. Friends are an excellent source of luck at the moment, so meet up with them.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 When you look back many years from now will you be pleased with yourself that you took so many chances? Or will you rue the opportunities you allowed to pass by?

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Today's Sun-Venus union in your fellow Water sign of Scorpio encourages you to see the world from a higher perspective. Feed your mind, and your soul will soar. SALLY BROMPTON

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